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Code NO: 67

Subject: ARCHAEOLOGY

SYLLABUS

Unit - I

Introduction to Archaeology:
Definition; aims, scope and ethics of archaeology; history and growth of Archaeology. History of Indian archaeology.
Relationship of archaeology with social and natural sciences.
Type and nature of archaeological data.
Retrieval of archaeological data: Methods of explorations and excavations. (Random and systematic prospections; subsurface investigations using modern techniques such as remote sensing, resistivity surveys). Recording and documentation.
Methods of artefact analysis: categorization, classification and characterization.
Methods of interpretation and related issues: Application of sociological and anthropological models: Ethnography and experimental replication studies;
Traditional, Processual and Post-Processual approaches.
Preparation of archaeological reports.

Conservation and preservation of archaeological remains/sites: Aims and Methods; Antiquarian laws.

Chronology and Dating Methods:
Relative dating: Cultural stratigraphy, biostratigraphy, typology, Fluorine, Nitrogen and Phosphate analysis; Soil analysis
Chronometric methods: Radiocarbon (C^{14}), Potassium/Argon, Fission track, Luminescence dating (TL and OSL), Dendrochronology, Palaeomagnetic dating Varve analysis, ESR dating, Obsidian hydration, Cosmogenic nuclides method of dating.

UNIT – II:

Introduction to Prehistory
Prehistoric beginning: Geological, biological and cultural dimensions of humans.
Human origin and Geological time scale: Late Tertiary (Miocene and Pliocene) and Quaternary Periods; Plio-Pleistocene boundary, Paleomagnetic records, Pleistocene and Holocene epochs. Major environment and climatic changes of Pleistocene; Pleistocene and Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS).
Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene: Pleistocene flora and Fauna.
Main stages of human evolution and important fossil records: Hominin ancestors of the Late Miocene, Pliocene and the Pleistocene: Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths and Homo; Hypotheses on modern human dispersal.

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Cultural backdrop: Evolution of stone implements and development of lithic technologies: The Oldowan, Acheulian and the Flake and Blade based industries of the Stone Age.

Palaeolithic cultural development in the world context:
Africa, Europe and South East Asia and China.
Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age of Africa; Lower Palaeolithic, Middle Palaeolithic and Upper Palaeolithic of Europe and West Asia.
Palaeolithic cultural developments in China and South East Asia.

Prehistoric Art: antiquity, significance, distribution.

Unit - III
Palaeolithic cultural developments in the Indian subcontinent:
Geo-chronology and Stone Age cultures of India: The Sohan Valley and the Potwar Plateau sites in the Sivalik hills, The Belan and Son valleys, Didwana dune 16R in Rajasthan, Kortlayar valley/Attirampakkam in Tamilnadu and Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh.

Lower Palaeolithic culture: Tool types and lithic technology; The Sohan industry and its antiquity; The Acheulian industry and its spread into major river valleys: Sites in the Narmada and the Sabarmati valleys, the Belan and the Son valley sites, sites in the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys, sites in the Krishna and the Godavari valleys, sites in the Kortlayar valley; sites associated with the Playas of Rajasthan.

Middle Palaeolithic culture and geographical spread; Tool types and lithic technology of the Middle Palaeolithic: the prepared core techniques/Levallois technique.

The Upper Palaeolithic culture: Tool types and lithic technologies of the Upper Palaeolithic: Blade and bone implements; geographic distribution and major sites.

Prehistoric Art in the Indian context: Antiquity, significance and distribution

Unit – IV
Mesolithic and Neolithic cultures:
Mesolithic in Europe; Epi-Palaeolithic developments in West Asia
Neolithic and Food Production: Neolithic stage in West Asia and China.

Mesolithic culture of the Indian subcontinent: Characteristic features; Tool types and micro-blade technology; regional variations in tool assemblages; Evidence of incipient stages of food production. Patterns of ecological adaptation and distribution: Sites in the alluvial plains, horseshoe lakes, coastal sites, sand-dune sites, sites in the plateaus and rock-shelter sites.

Neolithic cultures of the Indian subcontinent: Early farming communities of Baluchistan: Mehrgarh and Kili-Gul-Muhammad. Neolithic culture in Kashmir.

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Neolithic culture in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region: Koldihwa, Mahagara, Lahuradewa etc. Eastern Neolithic sites: Chirand, Chechar Senuwar, Kuchai, and Baidyapur and the Neolithic culture of the North-Eastern region: Sarutaru, Selbalgiri, Daojali Hading, Marakdola.

Neolithic cultural development in the southern peninsular India: Sanganakallu, Pikhlihal, Uttnur, Kodekal, Teklakota, Hallur, Nagarjunakonda and Ash-mound sites.

Unit – V

Proto-history:

Courses towards urbanization: The Harappa culture.

Formative stages of the Harappa culture: Emergence of village farming/ Chalcolithic settlements and beginning of regional cultures in the North and North-Western India and Pakistan. Contemporary developments in the Gagghar-Saraswati system and in Gujarat (Pre-Urban /Pre and Early Harappan cultural development).

Early Harappan and the emergence of the Urban Harappan cultural ethos.

Urban Harappan and geographical spread; settlement features; town planning and architecture; Economic production: the urban-rural dichotomy, agriculture and craft production. Trade and subsistence; standardisation of craft and the Harappan script, evidence of overseas contacts. Socio-political organization; art and evidence of religious beliefs; Authors? Important excavated sites: Mohanjodaro, Harappa, Kalibangan, Lothal, Dholavira, Surkotada, Banawali, Rakhigarhi, Bagasra, Rojdi, Rangpur.

Regional variations within the material culture: the concept of Sorath and Sindhi/Classical Harappan in Gujarat.

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Post-Urban Harappan

Decline of the Urban Harappan: causes of decline and different theories on decline .

Post-Urban phase: evidence from the Indus valley, Gagghar-Saraswati system and from Gujarat (Post-Urban or Late Harappa cultures of Sindh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Western Uttar Pradesh).

Other Chalcolithic Cultures of India:

The Copper Hoard and Ochre Coloured Pottery; Chalcolithic cultural remains in the Ganga plain.

The Banas/Ahar cultural developments in southern Rajasthan and its antiquity and distribution.

The Kayatha assemblage of Madhya Pradesh.

The Malwa culture of the Narmada valley and its geographic distribution.

Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan region (Savalda, Malwa, Jorwe cultures).

UNIT – VI

The Iron Age and growth of new urban centres. Antiquity of Iron in India: Early stages of Iron Age, new evidence from Malhar, Dadupur, Raja Nal-ka-tila,

Hallur, Kumaranahalli and Kodumanal.

Painted Grey Ware culture: Extent, and Chronology and characteristic traits.

Northern Black Polished Ware culture: Extent, chronology and characteristic traits.

Iron Age in Peninsular India:
The Megalithic culture in peninsular India and beyond: Geographical spread, typology, chronological contexts, cultural artefacts and authors of Megalithic tradition.

The beginning of Early Historic period and the emergence of Urban centres in the Ganga Valley and Peninsular India.

Multiple modes of economic production, expansion of trade and development of trade routes, Maritime trade; emergence of new Urban centres.

Emergence of urban centres:
Important city sites: Rajghat, Ujjain, Vaisali, Taxila, Mathura, Sravasti, Kausambi, Sisupalgargh etc.

Important sites of Historical period:
Sringaverpura, Ahichhatra, Atiranjikhera, Hasthinapur, Khairadih, Chandarketugarh, Nasik, Adam, Satanikota, Nagarjunakonda, Arikamedu, Kodumanal, Pattanam.

Unit – VII
Architecture: A significant source of Indian history
The Stupa architecture: Structural Stupas: Origin and development: North and South Indian stupas.
Development of Rock-cut architecture: Origin and Development - Buddhist Brahmanical and Jain.

Temple Architecture: Origin and development of temples, Main features of the temple architecture, features and development of distinct architectural styles of Nagara, Vesara, Dravida and Bhumija temples.
Gupta, Chalukyan, Pallava and Rashtrakuta temples. Regional styles: Khajuraho temples, Temples of Odisha and Chola temples.

Art and Iconography
Sculptural Art: Stone and Bronze: Antiquity and development: The Mauryan pillar capitals, early Yaksha-Yakshi images, Shunga, Western Kshatrapa, Satvahana sculptures; the Kushana sculptures: Mathura and Gandhara Schools; Gupta sculptures: Saranath school; Chalukya, Pallava; Pala, Chandela, Chola and Hoysala sculptures.

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Iconography
Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Kartikeya, Ganesha, Surya, Shakti, Tirthankara (Rishabh dev, Parshvanath and Mahavira), Buddha, Bodhisattva and Tara.

Terracotta Art: Mauryan to the Gupta period
Paintings: Rock-cut cave paintings: Ajanta, Bagh and Sittanavasal

Unit – VIII
Palaeography and Epigraphy:
Epigraphy as a source of Indian history:
Origin and antiquity of writing in India;
Origin and development of Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts: Various theories.
Study of selected inscriptions: Asokan Edicts: Rock Edicts II, X, XII, XIII; Lumbini inscription of Asoka; Minor rock edict of Bairat; Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription; Hathigumpha inscription of Kharvela, Ushavadata inscription in Nasik cave 10, Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman, Nasik cave III inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi Year 19; Swat relic casket inscription; Saranath Buddha image inscription, Lucknow museum Jain image inscription of the time of Huviska; Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta; Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta, Aihole pillar inscription of Pulkesin II; Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja; Khalimpur copper plate of Dharmpala; Sanjan copper plate of Amoghavarsha, Mandsor inscription of Yeshovaran; Truvalangad copper plates of Rajendra Chola year 6 and Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV, Tharsapalli copper plates.

Unit – IX
Numismatics: Coins as an important source of history
Origin and antiquity of coinage in ancient India.
Technique/Methods of manufacturing coins: Silver, copper, gold and alloys.
Main type of coins: Punch marked coins, inscribed and un-inscribed cast coins. Janpada and tribal coins, Indo-Greek coins. Saka-Kashtrapa, Kushana and Satavahana coinage; Coins of the Gupta dynasty; Roman coins. Brief account of Early Medieval Indian coinage.

Unit – X
Methodology of archaeological research.
Role and characteristics of research, research ethics, methods of research; case studies and field investigations; Hypothesis formulation and research design; data collection and processing: Primary and secondary sources, use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in archaeological research; Methods of systematic referencing; Systematic presentation of data and results

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CHAPTER 01

Introduction to Archaeology, Chronology, and Dating Methods

1. Which of the following best defines the primary aim of archaeology?
(A) To exclusively study ancient texts and manuscripts for historical reconstruction.
(B) To reconstruct past human life and culture through systematic study of material remains.
(C) To collect valuable antiquities for museum displays and private collections.
(D) To focus solely on the architectural marvels of ancient civilizations.

2. Read the following statements regarding the scope of archaeology and select the correct option.
Statement I : The scope of archaeology is limited to the study of pre-literate societies.
Statement II : Modern archaeology interfaces with natural and social sciences to create a holistic picture of the past.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

3. Read the following statements regarding the ethics of archaeology.
(i) Excavated artefacts are the personal property of the excavator.
(ii) The primary obligation is the preservation and conservation of archaeological resources.
(iii) Full and prompt publication of research findings is an ethical responsibility.
(iv) Archaeological sites can be explored without the permission of the landowners or concerned authorities.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i) and (iv)
(B) (ii) and (iii)
(C) (i), (ii) and (iii)
(D) (ii), (iii) and (iv)

4. The growth of archaeology in India is closely associated with the establishment of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Who is often called the Father of Indian Archaeology and became its first Director-General?
(A) John Marshall
(B) Mortimer Wheeler
(C) James Prinsep
(D) Alexander Cunningham

5. Which of the following is an example of an application of ethnographic analogy in archaeological interpretation?
(A) Using radiocarbon dating to determine the age of a charcoal sample.
(B) Analyzing the chemical composition of a metal artefact to identify its source ore.
(C) Studying pottery-making in contemporary communities to understand ancient production.
(D) Classifying stone tools based on their shape and size into different types.

6. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The relationship between archaeology and the natural sciences is crucial for modern archaeological research.
Reason (R) : Natural sciences provide methods for dating ancient materials, analyzing environmental data, and understanding site formation processes.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.

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(D) A is false but R is true.

7. A researcher finds a series of post-holes arranged in a circle at an archaeological site. This is an example of what type of archaeological data?
(A) Artefact
(B) Ecofact
(C) Manuport
(D) Feature

8. All of the following are chronometric dating methods EXCEPT:
(A) Typological sequencing
(B) Radiocarbon dating
(C) Potassium-Argon dating
(D) Thermoluminescence dating

9. Match the methods of subsurface investigation in List I with their underlying principles in List II.
List I: (Method)
P. Resistivity Survey
Q. Remote Sensing (Satellite)
R. Ground Penetrating Radar
S. Magnetometry
List II: (Principle)
1. Measures variations in the Earth's magnetic field caused by buried features.
2. Detects reflected signals of electromagnetic waves sent into the ground.
3. Records electromagnetic radiation from the Earth's surface to identify large-scale features.
4. Measures variations in the electrical resistance of the soil.
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

10. The process of categorizing artefacts based on shared attributes such as material, shape, and decoration is known as:
(A) Classification
(B) Stratigraphy
(C) Seriation
(D) Conservation

11. Which of the following statements about archaeological exploration is INCORRECT?
(A) Random prospection involves searching areas without a systematic grid.
(B) Systematic prospection involves dividing the survey area into a grid and surveying each unit.
(C) Remote sensing can help identify potential archaeological sites before ground survey.
(D) Subsurface investigations are only conducted after the excavation is complete.

12. Read the following statements regarding the core tenets of Post-Processual archaeology.
(i) It emphasizes objectivity and the scientific method as the only valid approach.
(ii) It rejects the idea of a single, objective interpretation of the past.
(iii) It highlights the importance of symbolism, ideology, and the individual in past societies.
(iv) It views culture as an adaptive system, primarily responding to environmental factors.
(v) It acknowledges the potential for bias and the political context of the archaeologist's interpretation.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) (i), (iv) and (v)
(B) (ii), (iii) and (v)
(C) (i), (iii) and (iv)
(D) (ii), (iv) and (v)

13. What is the fundamental principle of cultural stratigraphy as a relative dating method?
(A) Objects of similar style must be of the same age.
(B) The rate of decay of organic material is constant over time.
(C) Deeper layers of archaeological deposits are older than the layers above them.
(D) The fluorine content of buried bones increases over time.

14. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Processual archaeology, also known as 'New Archaeology', sought to make archaeology more scientific and objective.
Statement II : Traditional archaeology primarily focused on descriptive culture-history, chronicling 'what, where, and when'.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

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(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

15. Consider the following developments in the history of Indian archaeology.
(i) Founding of the Asiatic Society of Bengal by William Jones.
(ii) Appointment of Alexander Cunningham as the first Director-General of the ASI.
(iii) Excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro under John Marshall.
(iv) Introduction of stratigraphic excavation methods at Taxila and Arikamedu by Mortimer Wheeler.
Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence?
(A) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(B) (ii), (i), (iv), (iii)
(C) (i), (iii), (ii), (iv)
(D) (iv), (iii), (ii), (i)

16. Which of the following best describes experimental replication studies in archaeology?
(A) Recreating ancient environments to analyze faunal and floral remains in a controlled setting.
(B) Reproducing ancient artefacts or structures to understand their manufacture and use-life.
(C) Simulating cultural changes using complex computer models and mathematical simulations.
(D) Translating ancient inscriptions to understand historical events and social chronologies.

17. An archaeologist discovers two sets of buried bones in the same geological deposit. Analysis shows that Bone A has a significantly higher fluorine content than Bone B. What is the most likely conclusion?
(A) Bone A is younger than Bone B.
(B) Bone A is older than Bone B.
(C) Both bones are of the same age.
(D) The fluorine content is irrelevant for dating.

18. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Dendrochronology can provide an absolute date in calendar years.
Reason (R) : It is based on the principle that the growth rings of certain tree species form a unique sequence that can be matched year by year.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

19. The potassium-argon (K/Ar) dating method is most suitable for dating which type of material?
(A) Organic remains like wood or bone.
(B) Fired clay pottery.
(C) Volcanic rock.
(D) Marine shells.

20. Identify the correct pair of archaeological approach and its central concept.
(A) Traditional Archaeology - Cultural Ecology
(B) Post-Processual Archaeology - Normative View of Culture
(C) Marxist Archaeology - Environmental Determinism
(D) Processual Archaeology - Culture as an Adaptive System

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21. Read the following statements regarding the retrieval of archaeological data.
(i) Excavation is always a destructive process.
(ii) Remote sensing techniques are non-invasive methods of site discovery.
(iii) Random prospection is generally more rigorous than systematic prospection.
(iv) Proper documentation during excavation is essential for future analysis.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) (i), (ii) and (iv)
(B) (ii), (iii) and (iv)
(C) (i) and (iii) only
(D) (i), (ii) and (iii)

22. Which term describes the study of layered rock or soil deposits to determine the sequence of events?

(A) Typology
(B) Stratigraphy
(C) Seriation
(D) Taphonomy

23. Which of the following is NOT a primary aim of conservation of archaeological remains?
(A) To stabilize the material and prevent further decay.
(B) To facilitate the study and interpretation of the remains.
(C) To ensure the long-term preservation of the cultural heritage.
(D) To restore the object to its original, pristine appearance.

24. Match the dating methods in List I with the scientific principles in List II.
List I: (Dating Method)
P. Radiocarbon (C14)
Q. Luminescence (TL/OSL)
R. Fission Track
S. Palaeomagnetism
List II: (Principle)
1. Spontaneous splitting of Uranium-238 atoms, leaving marks in crystals/glass.
2. Measurement of trapped electrons in a crystalline structure.
3. Decay of an unstable isotope in organic matter.
4. Shifts in the Earth's magnetic polarity recorded in geological strata.
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

25. The study of animal bones from an archaeological site to understand past diet and environment is known as:
(A) Paleoethnobotany
(B) Geoarchaeology
(C) Zooarchaeology
(D) Palynology

26. Read the following statements regarding archaeological report preparation and select the correct option.
Statement I : The report provides a systematic record of all excavated data for future research.
Statement II : A comprehensive archaeological report includes methodology, data, analysis, and interpretation, ensuring the 'excavation' is preserved in record.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

27. Which of the following is a relative dating technique that uses the changing styles of artefacts, such as pottery, over time?
(A) Fluorine analysis
(B) Varve analysis
(C) Dendrochronology
(D) Typological seriation

28. Which of the following concepts is most central to the 'Processual' or 'New Archaeology' movement?
(A) Emphasizing the unique historical trajectory of each culture.
(B) Explaining cultural processes and viewing culture as an adaptive system.
(C) Focusing on the subjective experience and symbolism of past individuals.
(D) Prioritizing the collection of art objects over mundane artefacts.

29. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Nitrogen analysis is a useful relative dating method for bones from the same site.
Reason (R) : The amount of nitrogen, a component of bone protein (collagen), decreases as the bone ages and the protein decays.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

30. Which of the following statements accurately describes an antiquarian law?
(A) A regulation that governs the sale of modern replicas of ancient artworks.

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(B) A scientific principle dictating the chemical age of a specific antiquity.
(C) A set of guidelines for displaying antiquities within a museum gallery.
(D) A legal framework designed to protect and regulate archaeological heritage resources.

31. In the context of archaeological data, what is an 'ecofact'?
(A) A natural object with cultural relevance that was not modified by humans.
(B) A portable item designed or modified by humans for a specific purpose.
(C) A non-portable, human-made element of a site like a wall or hearth.
(D) A geological object moved from its context by natural environmental forces.

32. The combination of Fluorine, Nitrogen, and Phosphate analysis is particularly useful for:
(A) Dating volcanic eruptions.
(B) Determining the relative age of bones found in the same deposit.
(C) Providing an absolute calendar date for a ceramic pot.
(D) Analyzing the diet of prehistoric populations.

33. Read the following statements regarding archaeological prospection techniques.
(i) Excavating a trench to reveal stratigraphy.
(ii) Conducting a systematic field walkover to find surface artefacts.
(iii) Using satellite imagery to identify ancient field systems.
(iv) Employing a resistivity meter to detect subsurface anomalies.
(v) Classifying pottery sherds in the laboratory.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) (i), (ii) and (v)
(B) (ii), (iii) and (iv)
(C) (i), (iv) and (v)
(D) (iii), (iv) and (v)

34. The radiocarbon (C14) dating method is used to determine the age of:
(A) Organic materials such as bone, wood, and charcoal.
(B) Volcanic ash layers.
(C) Fired pottery and bricks.
(D) Flint tools that have been heated.

35. What is the most appropriate description of 'characterization' in artefact analysis?
(A) The process of sorting artefacts into broad categories like stone, bone, and pottery.
(B) The arrangement of artefacts in a chronological sequence based on style.
(C) The application of scientific techniques to determine the source material or composition of an artefact.
(D) The final stage of writing the archaeological report.

36. Consider the following theoretical approaches in archaeology.
(i) Post-Processual Archaeology
(ii) Processual (New) Archaeology
(iii) Traditional (Culture-Historical) Archaeology
Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of their general emergence?
(A) (i), (iii), (ii)
(B) (ii), (i), (iii)
(C) (iii), (ii), (i)
(D) (iii), (i), (ii)

37. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Thermoluminescence (TL) dating measures the light emitted from a heated crystalline material.
Statement II : The amount of light emitted is proportional to the time elapsed since the material was last heated.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

38. The study of how archaeological sites are created and affected by both human and natural processes over time is called:
(A) Ethnography
(B) Site formation processes
(C) Experimental archaeology
(D) Typology

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39. A key difference between relative dating and chronometric dating is that:
(A) Relative dating is more accurate than chronometric dating.
(B) Relative dating can be used on any material, while chronometric dating is only for organic remains.
(C) Relative dating is a laboratory technique, while chronometric dating is a field technique.
(D) Relative dating provides a sequence (older/younger), while chronometric dating provides an age in years.

40. Which of the following correctly pairs a discipline with its contribution to archaeology?
(A) Palynology - Study of ancient pollen to reconstruct past vegetation
(B) Geomorphology - Study of ancient languages
(C) Zoology - Study of soil and sediment layers
(D) Chemistry - Study of social structures and kinship systems

41. What is the main purpose of a resistivity survey in archaeology?
(A) To date organic remains found beneath the earth.
(B) To measure the magnetic properties of the local soil.
(C) To identify buried features by measuring soil resistance.
(D) To create 3D models of the surface topography.

42. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The principle of superposition is fundamental to relative dating in archaeology.
Reason (R) : In an undisturbed sequence of strata, the oldest layer is at the bottom and the youngest is at the top.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

43. Which of the following is NOT an aim of the conservation and preservation of archaeological sites?
(A) Ensuring their stability against natural and human threats.
(B) Making them accessible for public education and tourism.
(C) Maintaining the scientific and historical integrity of the site.
(D) Rebuilding ruined structures to what they might have looked like originally.

44. Read the following statements regarding the application of sociological and anthropological models in archaeology.
(i) These models help archaeologists interpret social structures from material remains.
(ii) They provide frameworks for understanding concepts like kinship, status, and trade in past societies.
(iii) These models are universally applicable and do not require critical evaluation.
(iv) They are primarily used for dating artefacts, not for interpretation.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i) and (ii)
(B) (iii) and (iv)
(C) (i), (ii) and (iv)
(D) (ii) and (iii)

45. The study of annual sediment layers, particularly in glacial lakes, for the purpose of dating is known as:
(A) Dendrochronology
(B) Palynology
(C) Varve analysis
(D) Fission track dating

46. Which of the following is the most appropriate description of 'Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating'?
(A) Charcoal from a hearth
(B) Animal bone
(C) Volcanic rock
(D) Wind-blown sand or sediment grains

47. Match the archaeological terms in List I with their definitions in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. Artefact

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Q. Ecofact
R. Feature
S. Site

List II: (Definition)

1. A non-portable element of human activity (e.g., a hearth).
2. A portable object made, modified, or used by humans.
3. A distinct spatial clustering of artefacts, features, and ecofacts.
4. Natural remains with archaeological significance (e.g., seeds, bones).

(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

48. Biostratigraphy is a relative dating technique based on:
(A) The law of superposition.
(B) The sequence of faunal (animal) fossils in geological layers.
(C) The decay rate of Carbon-14.
(D) The stylistic evolution of pottery.

49. Read the following statements regarding Obsidian hydration dating and select the correct option.
Statement I : Obsidian hydration dating is a chronometric method based on the absorption of water by volcanic glass.
Statement II : The thickness of the hydration rim is used to estimate the time since the stone was flaked.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

50. Consider the following dating methods.
(i) Radiocarbon Dating
(ii) Dendrochronology
(iii) Potassium-Argon Dating
Which of the following is the correct order of applicability from the most recent past to the most distant past?
(A) (i), (ii), (iii)
(B) (ii), (i), (iii)
(C) (iii), (i), (ii)
(D) (ii), (iii), (i)

51. The Electron Spin Resonance (ESR) dating method is particularly useful for dating which material that is often difficult to date by other means?
(A) Volcanic ash
(B) Unburnt wood
(C) Tooth enamel
(D) Lake varves

52. In the context of the history of archaeology, what is the 'three-age system'?
(A) A classification of civilizations into Old World, New World, and Pacific.
(B) A chronological framework based on Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods.
(C) A theoretical model of cultural evolution proposed by Lewis Binford.
(D) A system dividing human history into the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age.

53. Which of the following is NOT a form of archaeological data retrieval?
(A) Random prospection
(B) Systematic excavation
(C) Post-processual interpretation
(D) Resistivity survey

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54. The concept of 'culture-history', which focuses on describing and cataloguing cultural sequences, is most characteristic of which archaeological approach?
(A) Processual Archaeology
(B) Traditional Archaeology
(C) Post-Processual Archaeology
(D) Marxist Archaeology

55. Read the following statements regarding the components of an archaeological report.
(i) A detailed description of the excavation methodology.
(ii) An analysis and interpretation of the findings.
(iii) High-quality illustrations, maps, and photographs.
(iv) A speculative narrative about the daily lives of the site's inhabitants, unsupported by evidence.
(v) A catalogue of significant finds.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), (iii), (v)
(B) (i), (iv), (v)
(C) (ii), (iii), (iv)
(D) (i), (ii), (iv), (v)

56. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Phosphate analysis of soil can help identify areas of past human activity within a site.
Reason (R) : Human occupation, through the deposition of organic waste, bone, and other materials, tends to increase phosphate levels in the soil.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

57. An archaeologist excavates a large, open area to expose the layout of a settlement from a single time period. This excavation strategy is known as:
(A) Vertical excavation
(B) Test pitting
(C) Horizontal or area excavation
(D) Salvage excavation

58. What is the half-life of Carbon-14, which is a crucial constant in radiocarbon dating?
(A) Approximately 5,730 years
(B) Approximately 1.3 billion years
(C) Approximately 100,000 years
(D) Approximately 730 years

59. The study of social sciences such as sociology and anthropology is important for archaeology primarily because it:
(A) Provides absolute dates for artefacts.
(B) Helps in the chemical analysis of pottery.
(C) Guides the conservation of metal objects.
(D) Offers models and theories for interpreting past social structures and behaviours.

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60. Which of the following statements about Fission Track dating is INCORRECT?
(A) It can be used to date volcanic glass and minerals like zircon.
(B) It is primarily used for dating organic materials like wood and charcoal.
(C) The method relies on counting the microscopic tracks left by the spontaneous fission of uranium-238 isotopes.
(D) The sample must be heated to reset the 'clock' for dating a volcanic event.

61. Match the archaeological terms in List I with the examples in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. Ethnography
Q. Experimental Replication
R. Typology
S. Stratigraphy
List II: (Example)
1. Observing a modern flintknapper to understand prehistoric tool-making.
2. Observing that in a trench, the Roman layer is below the Medieval layer.
3. Classifying projectile points into stemmed, notched, and triangular varieties.
4. Living with a hunter-gatherer group to understand mobility patterns.
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

62. What does 'OSL' stand for in the context of luminescence dating?
(A) Over-exposure Standard Light
(B) Organic Sample Luminescence
(C) Obsidian Sourcing Lithology
(D) Optically Stimulated Luminescence

63. Which of the following is a primary ethical responsibility of an archaeologist?
(A) To ensure conservation of archaeological material for future generations.
(B) To sell artefacts to the highest bidder to fund future research.
(C) To keep the location of discovered sites a secret from everyone.
(D) To prioritize personal interpretation over collaborative analysis.

64. Cosmogenic nuclides dating is a method used to determine:
(A) The age of firing of a ceramic pot.
(B) The length of time a rock surface has been exposed to cosmic rays.
(C) The relative age of bones from the same grave.
(D) The age of organic matter trapped in ice cores.

65. Which of the following best describes the 'Processual' critique of 'Traditional' archaeology?
(A) Traditional archaeology was too focused on scientific laws and not enough on history.
(B) Traditional archaeology was merely descriptive and failed to explain cultural processes.
(C) Traditional archaeology gave too much importance to the individual's role in the past.
(D) Traditional archaeology relied too heavily on chronometric dating methods.

66. Read the following statements regarding the characteristics of archaeological data.
(i) Provenience (the exact location where an item is found).
(ii) Association (its relationship with other items).
(iii) Context (the matrix and situation in which it is found).
(iv) Monetary value.
Which of the above statements are correct for its interpretation?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii), and (iv)
(C) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(D) (i) and (iv) only

67. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Palaeomagnetic dating is an absolute dating method based on the decay of radioactive isotopes.
Statement II : It relies on the known shifts in the Earth's magnetic field, which are recorded in materials like baked clay or volcanic rocks.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

68. The main purpose of creating a typology for a set of artefacts is to:
(A) Determine their absolute monetary value.
(B) Discover how they were used through chemical experiments.
(C) Immediately establish the social status of their original owners.
(D) Organize them into manageable groups based on shared attributes for analysis and comparison.

69. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Dendrochronology is limited to regions with trees that produce distinct annual growth rings.
Reason (R) : In tropical regions with little seasonal variation, trees may not form clear, annual rings, making the method inapplicable.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

70. The study of the human past through its material remains is the most concise definition of:
(A) History
(B) Archaeology
(C) Anthropology
(D) Paleontology

71. Which one of the following is NOT a method of subsurface investigation in archaeology?
(A) Resistivity Survey
(B) Remote Sensing
(C) Ground-penetrating radar
(D) Surface collection

72. Consider the following individuals and their major contributions to Indian archaeology.
(i) Mortimer Wheeler
(ii) Alexander Cunningham

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(iii) John Marshall

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of their work?

(A) (i), (ii), (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii), (i)
(C) (iii), (i), (ii)
(D) (ii), (i), (iii)

73. The 'Post-Processual' critique of 'Processual' archaeology argued that:

(A) Archaeology should be more scientific and law-oriented.
(B) Culture is simply an extrasomatic means of adaptation.
(C) The role of the individual, ideology, and symbolism were neglected.
(D) Environmental factors are the sole determinants of cultural change.

74. An archaeologist is excavating a multi-period urban site and wants to understand its chronological development and the changes in building styles over time. Which excavation strategy would be most appropriate?

(A) A deep, vertical sounding or trench (Wheeler method).
(B) A large horizontal exposure of only the topmost layer.
(C) Randomly scattered small test pits.
(D) Surface collection of artefacts across the entire site.

75. Which statement accurately describes the relationship between archaeology and history?

(A) They are mutually exclusive fields, with history studying texts and archaeology studying objects.
(B) Archaeology is a sub-discipline of history that only deals with the prehistoric period.
(C) History is considered a natural science, while archaeology is a social science.
(D) They are complementary disciplines, with archaeology providing material evidence to challenge or support texts.

76. The effectiveness of fluorine, nitrogen, and phosphate analysis for relative dating of bones depends on the assumption that:

(A) All bones in a site are of exactly the same age.
(B) The bones being compared have been buried in the same geochemical environment.
(C) Nitrogen levels in bone increase steadily over time.
(D) Fluorine is only present in bones of a certain species.

77. Which of the following methods would be most suitable for dating a 2-million-year-old volcanic layer associated with early hominin fossils?

(A) Radiocarbon (C14) dating
(B) Dendrochronology
(C) Potassium-Argon (K/Ar) dating
(D) Varve analysis

78. Match the archaeological concepts in List I with the descriptions in List II.

List I: (Concept)

P. Processual Archaeology
Q. Post-Processual Archaeology
R. Culture History
S. Experimental Archaeology

List II: (Description)

1. Replicating ancient techniques to understand past processes.
2. Emphasizes ideology, agency, and multiple interpretations.
3. Focuses on description, chronology, and spatial distribution of cultures.
4. Views culture as an adaptive system and emphasizes scientific explanation.

(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

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79. What does the term 'retrieval of archaeological data' encompass?

(A) Methods of exploration and excavation used to find and recover archaeological remains.
(B) Only the laboratory analysis of artefacts recovered from the field.
(C) The process of writing the final site report after the field season.
(D) The conservation and museum display of finds for public education.

80. Read the following statements regarding luminescence dating (TL and OSL) and select the correct option.

Statement I : It dates the last time the object was exposed to sufficient heat (TL) or sunlight (OSL).
Statement II : It is only applicable to organic materials such as bone and wood.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

81. Consider the following stages of artefact analysis.
(i) Initial sorting and cleaning in the field.
(ii) Categorization based on broad material types.
(iii) Classification into specific types based on attributes.
(iv) Characterization to determine composition or source.
Which of the following is the correct sequence of analytical steps?
(A) (iv), (i), (ii), (iii)
(B) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(C) (ii), (iii), (iv), (i)
(D) (i), (iv), (iii), (ii)

82. What does the term antiquarian law refer to?
(A) Legislation concerned with the protection of cultural heritage.
(B) The physical law governing the decay of antiquities.
(C) A historical period focused on collecting antiquities.
(D) A method for dating ancient objects based on their appearance.

83. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The context of an artefact is critically important to an archaeologist.
Reason (R) : The context, which includes its provenience, matrix, and association, provides the primary data for interpreting the artefact's significance and use.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

84. What is the main limitation of radiocarbon dating?
(A) It can only date materials up to a few thousand years old.
(B) It can only be used on volcanic rocks.
(C) It is a relative, not a chronometric, dating method.
(D) It has an effective age limit of around 50,000 years.

85. Which archaeological school of thought would be most likely to produce the statement: The past is actively constructed in the present, and multiple interpretations are possible and valid?
(A) Traditional Archaeology
(B) Processual Archaeology
(C) Post-Processual Archaeology
(D) Environmental Archaeology

86. Which of the following is NOT a relative dating method?
(A) Cultural Stratigraphy
(B) Luminescence dating (TL)
(C) Typology
(D) Biostratigraphy

87. Systematic prospection (survey) in archaeology is primarily designed to:
(A) Recover all artefacts from a region without conducting excavation.
(B) Exclusively find large architectural sites and monumental remains.
(C) Determine the absolute age of the regional cultural landscape.
(D) Provide a representative sample of sites in a given area.

88. Read the following statements regarding archaeological ethics.
(i) Stewardship of the archaeological record.
(ii) Accountability to descendant communities.
(iii) Prompt and public dissemination of results.
(iv) Commercialization of artefacts.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (i), (iii), and (iv)
(C) (ii), (iii), and (iv)

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(D) (i), (ii), and (iv)

89. A researcher uses the principle that stylistic changes in pottery are often gradual and evolutionary to arrange collections of potsherds from different sites into a relative chronological sequence. This method is called:
(A) Stratigraphic excavation
(B) Dendrochronology
(C) Typological seriation
(D) Resistivity survey

90. In archaeology, what distinguishes an exploration method from an excavation method?
(A) Exploration locates and maps sites non-invasively, whereas excavation uncovers stratified remains invasively.
(B) Exploration is a destructive field method, whereas excavation is a non-destructive laboratory method.
(C) Exploration is conducted by historians, whereas excavation is conducted by trained archaeologists.
(D) Exploration focuses on surface artefacts, whereas excavation focuses on buried monumental architecture.

91. Match the dating techniques in List I with the materials in List II.
List I: (Technique)
P. Dendrochronology
Q. Potassium-Argon
R. Thermoluminescence (TL)
S. Radiocarbon (C14)
List II: (Material)
1. Volcanic rock
2. Pottery
3. Wood/Tree rings
4. Charcoal
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

92. The application of sociological and anthropological models in archaeology is most closely associated with which theoretical movement?
(A) Antiquarianism
(B) Processual (New) Archaeology
(C) Traditional (Culture-Historical) Archaeology
(D) The Three-Age System

93. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Soil analysis can be a form of relative dating by observing soil development and stratigraphy.
Statement II : Chemical analysis of soil, such as phosphate analysis, can indicate areas of human activity.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

94. What is the fundamental goal of recording and documentation during an excavation?
(A) To create a visually appealing site map for publication.
(B) To satisfy legal requirements by listing objects found.
(C) To create a preliminary inventory for museum exhibitions.
(D) To preserve detailed records of find contexts before destruction.

95. The concept that archaeological interpretation is influenced by the archaeologist's own cultural and political background is a central tenet of:
(A) Post-Processual Archaeology
(B) Processual Archaeology
(C) Geoarchaeology
(D) Culture-Historical Archaeology

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96. Which of the following is an example of 'biostratigraphy'?
(A) Using tree rings to date a wooden beam.
(B) Correlating two separate geological layers based on the presence of the same extinct mammoth species fossil.
(C) Dating a piece of pottery using thermoluminescence.
(D) Analyzing the fluorine content of a human bone.

97. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R).

Select the correct answer using the options given below.

Assertion (A) : Ethnography is a valuable tool for archaeological interpretation.

Reason (R) : By studying living societies, archaeologists can create testable hypotheses about the function of artefacts and the meaning of material patterns found in the archaeological record.

(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

98. A 'random prospection' or random sampling survey involves:
(A) Choosing survey units based on a formal randomizing procedure to avoid bias.
(B) Surveying only the areas that look promising based on intuition.
(C) Walking in random, unplanned directions across the landscape.
(D) Surveying the entire designated area exhaustively.

99. Which of the following dating methods does NOT rely on radioactive decay?
(A) Radiocarbon (C14)
(B) Potassium/Argon
(C) Varve analysis
(D) Fission track

100. The primary aim of conservation of archaeological remains is to:
(A) Restore the object to its original appearance.
(B) Increase the monetary value of the object.
(C) Make the object suitable for handling by the general public.
(D) Arrest the process of decay and stabilize the object.

101. Which of the following statements about the history of Indian archaeology is correct?
(A) Alexander Cunningham was the first to discover the Indus Valley Civilization.
(B) John Marshall focused primarily on Paleolithic sites in Southern India.
(C) Mortimer Wheeler introduced the principles of stratigraphic excavation to the subcontinent.
(D) The Archaeological Survey of India was disbanded after Indian independence.

102. Read the following statements regarding the potential methods for the retrieval of archaeological data.
(i) Ethnographic interviews with local populations.
(ii) Systematic surface collection in ploughed fields.
(iii) Resistivity survey to map subsurface features.
(iv) Stratigraphic excavation of a settlement mound.
(v) Writing the final archaeological report.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii), and (iv)
(C) (i), (iv), and (v)
(D) (iii), (iv), and (v)

103. The term 'typology' in archaeology refers to the:
(A) Study of the relationship between different types of soil at a site.
(B) Interpretation of symbols found on ancient pottery.
(C) Use of texts to identify the type of site.
(D) Systematic arrangement of artefacts in groups or types based on shared characteristics.

104. Read the following steps of an archaeological research project.
(i) Data analysis and interpretation.
(ii) Formulation of a research question.
(iii) Fieldwork (exploration and excavation).
(iv) Publication of results.
Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence?
(A) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)
(B) (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)
(C) (iii), (i), (iv), (ii)
(D) (iv), (ii), (iii), (i)

105. Read the following statements and select the correct option.

Statement I : An artefact's provenience is its specific location in three-dimensional space.

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Statement II : An artefact's context includes its provenience, its surrounding matrix, and its association with other finds.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

106. Obsidian Hydration is a method used for dating:
(A) Pieces of obsidian (volcanic glass) artefacts.
(B) Pottery sherds.
(C) Human or animal bone.
(D) Deposits of wind-blown sand.

107. Which of the following best describes the contribution of Natural Sciences to Archaeology?
(A) Providing narrative frameworks for historical events.
(B) Offering models of social organization and kinship.
(C) Assisting in the translation of ancient scripts and languages.
(D) Supplying techniques for dating, sourcing materials, and reconstructing ancient environments.

108. Which statement is INCORRECT regarding the different archaeological approaches?
(A) Traditional archaeology was largely concerned with creating chronologies.
(B) Post-Processual archaeology emphasizes a single, objective truth about the past.
(C) Processual archaeology sought to explain past human behavior through scientific laws.
(D) Ethnography is used as an interpretive tool in both processual and post-processual archaeology.

109. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : A major aim of archaeology is the reconstruction of past lifeways.
Reason (R) : By analyzing the full range of material culture, from tools to settlement patterns to food remains, archaeologists can infer aspects of past economies, diets, and social organization.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

110. The Potassium-Argon dating clock is 'set' at the moment when:
(A) An organism dies and stops absorbing carbon.
(B) A tree is cut down.
(C) A pot is fired in a kiln.
(D) A volcanic rock cools and solidifies, trapping Argon gas.

111. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Archaeology and History - Exclusive focus on non-literate societies.
(B) Archaeology and Anthropology - Study of human culture, past and present.
(C) Archaeology and Geology - Study of stratigraphy and site formation.
(D) Archaeology and Chemistry - Analysis of artefact composition.

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112. The method of dating based on counting annual growth rings in trees is called:
(A) Varve analysis
(B) Dendrochronology
(C) Seriation
(D) OSL dating

113. Read the following statements regarding the principles of relative dating.
(i) Law of Superposition.
(ii) Use of radioactive half-lives.
(iii) Association of objects in the same deposit.
(iv) Typological sequencing of artefacts.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii) and (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii) and (iv)
(C) (i), (iii) and (iv)
(D) (i), (ii) and (iv)

114. The term 'ethnoarchaeology' refers to:
(A) The study of living peoples and their material culture by archaeologists to better understand the archaeological record.

(B) The study of ethnicity in past societies through skeletal analysis.
(C) The archaeological study of a specific ethnic group.
(D) The use of ethnic myths and legends to locate archaeological sites.

115. Match the dating methods in List I with the events they primarily date in List II.
List I: (Method)
P. Radiocarbon (C14)
Q. Thermoluminescence (TL)
R. Potassium-Argon (K/Ar)
S. Dendrochronology
List II: (Event Dated)
1. The last time a ceramic was fired.
2. The death of an organism.
3. The cutting of a timber.
4. The formation of a volcanic rock.
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

116. A vertical excavation is most useful for:
(A) Uncovering the complete plan of a single-period village.
(B) Surveying a large region for undiscovered sites.
(C) Analyzing the chemical composition of surface soils.
(D) Obtaining a deep chronological profile of a site.

117. Which of the following is NOT an example of archaeological data?
(A) A flint arrowhead.
(B) The pollen grains recovered from the floor of a pit house.
(C) An archaeologist's subjective feelings about the past.
(D) The post-hole stains of a decayed timber building.

118. The main difference between OSL and TL dating is:
(A) OSL is used for organic material, while TL is for stone.
(B) The 'zeroing' mechanism for OSL is exposure to sunlight, while for TL it is exposure to heat.
(C) OSL measures radioactive decay, while TL measures trapped electrons.
(D) OSL provides a relative date, while TL provides an absolute date.

119. Which statement best represents a Post-Processual perspective on archaeological reports?
(A) An archaeological report is a purely objective and factual account of the excavation.
(B) The primary purpose of an archaeological report is to list and quantify all finds.
(C) Archaeological reports should avoid interpretation and stick to data description.
(D) An archaeological report is a form of text that reflects the biases and theoretical stance of its author.

120. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Fluorine analysis can only provide a relative date for bones.
Reason (R) : The rate of fluorine absorption from groundwater into bone varies significantly from one location to another, preventing its use as a universal chronometric scale.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

121. The systematic process of walking across a landscape in a structured way to find and record archaeological remains is called:
(A) Excavation
(B) Remote Sensing
(C) Field survey or prospection
(D) Experimental archaeology

122. Which of the following methods measures the exposure of rock surfaces to cosmic radiation?
(A) Cosmogenic nuclides dating
(B) Electron Spin Resonance (ESR)
(C) Fission track dating
(D) Palaeomagnetic dating

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123. The 'culture-historical' approach to archaeology is primarily concerned with:
(A) Explaining social processes.
(B) Understanding the role of the individual in history.
(C) Deconstructing archaeological narratives.
(D) Defining cultural groups in time and space.

124. Read the following statements regarding the history and growth of archaeology.
(i) Early archaeology was often characterized by antiquarianism, focusing on collecting curiosities.
(ii) The development of the three-age system (Stone, Bronze, Iron) was a key step in organizing prehistory.
(iii) Processual archaeology emerged in the 1960s as a reaction against the descriptive nature of culture-history.
(iv) Post-processual archaeology re-emphasized the importance of scientific objectivity above all else.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i) and (iv)
(B) (ii) and (iii)
(C) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(D) (i), (iii), and (iv)

125. The aim of 'characterization' in artefact analysis is to:
(A) Group artefacts into stylistic types.
(B) Determine the function of an artefact through experimentation.
(C) Identify the specific material composition and source of an artefact using scientific methods.
(D) Create a detailed drawing of the artefact for publication.

126. A key ethical principle in archaeology is 'stewardship', which means:
(A) The archaeologist has ownership of all excavated materials.
(B) The primary goal is to quickly excavate sites before they are destroyed by development.
(C) The most valuable finds should be stored in private collections.
(D) The archaeological record is an irreplaceable resource that must be conserved and protected for the future.

127. Which of the following dating techniques is a relative method?
(A) Typological Seriation
(B) Radiocarbon dating
(C) Potassium-Argon dating
(D) Dendrochronology

128. In archaeological interpretation, what is an 'analogy'?
(A) A method of absolute dating using chemical analysis.
(B) The process of reasoning that if two things share some properties, they may share others.
(C) The scientific law that governs the decay of radioactive isotopes.
(D) A type of remote sensing technique.

129. Consider the following materials and their most appropriate chronometric dating methods.
(i) A potsherd from a Neolithic site.
(ii) A wooden post from a medieval castle.
(iii) A volcanic ash layer dated to 1.8 million years ago.
Which of the following represents the correct application of dating methods (C14, Luminescence, K/Ar)?
(A) (ii) - C14, (i) - Luminescence, (iii) - K/Ar
(B) (i) - C14, (ii) - Luminescence, (iii) - K/Ar
(C) (iii) - K/Ar, (i) - C14, (ii) - Luminescence
(D) (ii) - C14, (iii) - K/Ar, (i) - Luminescence

130. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : 'Categorization' is the first step in artefact analysis, involving sorting finds into broad classes like pottery, lithics, or bone.
Statement II : 'Classification' is a more detailed process of creating specific typologies within these broad categories.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

131. The analysis of plant remains from an archaeological context to reconstruct past environments and human diet is called:

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(A) Zooarchaeology
(B) Geoarchaeology
(C) Paleoethnobotany
(D) Taphonomy

132. Which of the following is a key feature of Post-Processual archaeology?
(A) Rejection of scientific methods.
(B) Focus on culture as a system of environmental adaptation.
(C) Belief in a single, objective past that can be fully known.
(D) Emphasis on the multivocality and contextuality of interpretation.

133. Read the following statements regarding dating methods.
(i) Radiocarbon (C14)
(ii) Cultural stratigraphy
(iii) Fluorine, Nitrogen and Phosphate analysis
(iv) Luminescence dating (TL and OSL)
(v) Biostratigraphy
Which of the above are relative dating methods?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii), and (v)
(C) (i), (iv), and (v)
(D) (ii), (iv), and (v)

134. Remote sensing in archaeology refers to:
(A) Dating objects from a long distance away.
(B) Acquiring information about a site from a distance using aerial, satellite, or geophysical techniques.
(C) Communicating with other archaeologists at remote field sites.
(D) The study of very distant and inaccessible archaeological sites.

135. The method of building a master tree-ring sequence for a region, which can then be used to date wooden artefacts, is a core part of:
(A) Varve Analysis
(B) Palaeomagnetic dating
(C) OSL dating
(D) Dendrochronology

136. Which of the following is an example of a research question that a Processual archaeologist might ask?
(A) How did changes in rainfall patterns affect settlement strategies and subsistence in the Neolithic period?
(B) What did it feel like to be a woman in the Indus Valley civilization?
(C) What is the symbolic meaning of the patterns on this pot?
(D) What are the multiple ways this ancient art can be interpreted by different modern communities?

137. Which statement about the history of Indian archaeology is incorrect?
(A) Alexander Cunningham used accounts of Chinese pilgrims like Xuanzang to identify ancient sites.
(B) John Marshall announced the discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization to the world.
(C) All significant archaeological work in India ceased with the departure of the British.
(D) Mortimer Wheeler's excavations at Arikamedu helped establish trade links with the Roman Empire.

138. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Complete excavation of an archaeological site is not always desirable.
Reason (R) : It is an ethical and practical necessity to leave parts of a site unexcavated for future researchers who may have better techniques and new research questions.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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139. Match the scientific dating methods in List I with the basis of their clocks in List II.
List I: (Method)
P. ESR Dating
Q. Obsidian Hydration
R. Varve Analysis
S. Fission Track
List II: (Basis of Clock)
1. Thickness of a water-absorption layer on volcanic glass.

2. Counting of annual sediment layers in lakes.
3. Measurement of trapped electrons in minerals like tooth enamel.
4. Density of damage trails from spontaneous decay of Uranium-238.

(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

140. A 'manuport' is a type of archaeological data defined as:
(A) An artefact manufactured at the site where it was found.
(B) A natural object moved from its context by human agency but not modified.
(C) A waste flake from the production of stone tools.
(D) A non-portable feature like a ditch or wall.

141. The primary purpose of experimental replication studies in archaeology is to:
(A) Create exact replicas for museum display.
(B) Find new archaeological sites.
(C) Test hypotheses about how artefacts were made or used.
(D) Provide absolute dates for artefacts.

142. The analysis of soil stratigraphy, sediments, and landforms at and around an archaeological site is the focus of:
(A) Zooarchaeology
(B) Paleoethnobotany
(C) Bioarchaeology
(D) Geoarchaeology

143. Which of the following is the best example of applying an anthropological model to archaeological data?
(A) Using Elman Service's model of band, tribe, chiefdom, and state to interpret the scale of social organization at a settlement.
(B) Using C14 to date a hearth.
(C) Using resistivity survey to find buried walls.
(D) Using X-ray fluorescence to determine the elemental composition of a metal object.

144. Read the following statements regarding dating methods.
(i) Biostratigraphy
(ii) Potassium/Argon
(iii) Fission track
(iv) Soil analysis
(v) Luminescence dating (TL and OSL)
Which of the above are chronometric dating methods?
(A) (i), (ii), (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii), and (v)
(C) (i), (iv), and (v)
(D) (ii), (iv), and (v)

145. Read the following statements regarding the scope of archaeology and select the correct option.
Statement I : The scope of archaeology is limited to prehistory and does not concern historical periods.
Statement II : The scope of archaeology includes the study of the human past from the earliest hominins to the recent past, including industrial archaeology.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

146. A resistivity meter works by measuring which property of the soil?
(A) Its ability to conduct an electrical current.
(B) Its magnetism.
(C) Its density.
(D) Its water content.

147. What is the zeroing event for radiocarbon dating?
(A) The formation of the rock in which the fossil is found.
(B) The last time a piece of pottery was fired.
(C) The moment an organism dies and ceases to exchange carbon with the atmosphere.
(D) The moment a stone tool was last used.

148. The New Archaeology of the 1960s is also known as:
(A) Post-Processual Archaeology
(B) Traditional Archaeology
(C) Antiquarianism
(D) Processual Archaeology

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149. The relationship of archaeology with social sciences like sociology and anthropology is primarily for:
(A) Radiometric dating.
(B) Analyzing the chemical composition of soils.
(C) Developing interpretive frameworks for past societies.
(D) Conserving fragile artefacts.

150. What is the fundamental ethical obligation regarding archaeological finds?
(A) To ensure they are sold for the highest possible price.
(B) To ensure their preservation and the publication of knowledge derived from them.
(C) To keep them in the private possession of the excavator.
(D) To distribute them equally among the excavation team members.

151. Which of the following scenarios best illustrates the use of biostratigraphy?
(A) Dating a site because it contains pottery of a known historical period.
(B) Dating a wooden beam by counting its growth rings.
(C) Dating a hearth by measuring the remaining C14 in its charcoal.
(D) Dating a geological stratum because it contains fossils of an animal species known to have lived within a specific time range.

152. All of the following are considered types of archaeological data EXCEPT:
(A) Theories
(B) Artefacts
(C) Ecofacts
(D) Features

153. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Publication is a crucial and ethical final step of any archaeological project.
Reason (R) : Since excavation is a destructive process, the detailed publication of data and interpretations is the only way to permanently preserve the excavated portion of a site for future scholars and the public.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

154. What is the primary information gained from Varve analysis?
(A) A chronological sequence in years based on annual lake sediment layers.
(B) The age of a piece of fired clay.
(C) The source of the stone used to make a tool.
(D) The relative age of two bones from the same deposit.

155. Which of the following statements about ESR (Electron Spin Resonance) dating is true?
(A) It is primarily used for dating organic materials under 50,000 years old.
(B) It is a relative dating technique based on stylistic changes.
(C) It works by counting annual growth layers in shells.
(D) It measures the accumulation of radiation damage in materials like tooth enamel and calcite.

156. The practice of studying contemporary cultures to make informed inferences about the past archaeological record is known as:
(A) Typology
(B) Ethnographic analogy
(C) Stratigraphy
(D) Remote sensing

157. Which theoretical approach in archaeology would be most interested in topics like agency, ideology, and the meaning of symbols?
(A) Culture-Historical Archaeology
(B) Processual Archaeology
(C) Post-Processual Archaeology
(D) Geoarchaeology

158. Which of the following is NOT a method of subsurface investigation?
(A) Resistivity survey
(B) Ground Penetrating Radar

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(C) Magnetometry
(D) Typological seriation of surface pottery

159. Read the following statements regarding dating methods.
(i) Dendrochronology provides a date in calendar years.
(ii) Radiocarbon dating results are usually given as a range of probability (e.g., BP +/- x years).
(iii) Stratigraphy provides a relative sequence, not a date in years.
(iv) Potassium-Argon dating is suitable for recent historical sites.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (i), (ii), and (iv)
(C) (ii), (iii), and (iv)
(D) (i), (iii), and (iv)

160. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act) in India is an example of:
(A) A method for relative dating.
(B) An antiquarian law for the protection of cultural heritage.
(C) A field manual for excavation techniques.
(D) A theoretical approach to interpretation.

161. An archaeologist trying to understand how a specific type of prehistoric stone axe was made and used, decides to attempt making one himself using authentic materials and techniques. This is an example of:
(A) Ethnography
(B) Experimental replication
(C) Remote sensing
(D) Post-processual critique

162. Match the archaeologists in List I with their significant contributions to Indian archaeology in List II.
List I: (Archaeologist)
P. Alexander Cunningham
Q. John Marshall
R. Mortimer Wheeler
S. James Prinsep
List II: (Contribution)
1. Introduced stratigraphic excavation methods.
2. Deciphered the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts.
3. First Director-General of ASI, extensive surveys.
4. Oversaw excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

163. The principle of 'association' in archaeology states that:
(A) Deeper objects are always older.
(B) Similar looking objects must have the same function.
(C) Objects found in the same, sealed archaeological deposit are likely from the same time period.
(D) All artefacts are associated with a specific culture.

164. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Fluorine, Nitrogen, and Phosphate analysis provides absolute dates in calendar years.
Statement II : These methods are chemical analyses used to determine the relative contemporaneity of bones buried in the same deposit.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

165. The half-life of a radioactive isotope is:
(A) The total time it takes for the isotope to decay completely.
(B) Half the age of the sample being dated.
(C) The time it takes for half of the atoms of the isotope in a sample to decay.
(D) The period during which the isotope is useful for dating.

166. Which type of archaeological data retrieval is inherently destructive?
(A) Remote sensing
(B) Excavation
(C) Surface survey

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(D) Resistivity survey

167. All the following are chronometric dating methods EXCEPT:
(A) Luminescence dating (TL and OSL)
(B) ESR dating
(C) Radiocarbon (C14)
(D) Cultural stratigraphy

168. The term 'typology' refers to the creation of a sequence of artefact types over time. This process is also known as:
(A) Seriation
(B) Stratigraphy
(C) Excavation
(D) Conservation

169. What is the main aim of publishing an archaeological report?
(A) To secure funding for the next project.
(B) To stake a personal claim on the discovered artefacts.
(C) To make the data and interpretations available to other researchers and the public.
(D) To create a coffee-table book with attractive pictures.

170. Which of the following is an example of an ecofact?
(A) A deposit of charred wheat seeds.
(B) A ceramic vessel
(C) A stone scraper
(D) A hearth

171. Read the following statements regarding the characteristics of Processual Archaeology.
(i) Emphasis on scientific method and objectivity.
(ii) Views culture as an adaptive system.
(iii) Rejects generalization and seeks specific historical explanations.
(iv) Focuses on cultural processes rather than just description.
(v) Prioritizes the study of symbolism and ideology.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iv)
(B) (ii), (iii), (v)
(C) (i), (iii), (v)
(D) (iii), (iv), (v)

172. The use of sociological models, such as world-systems theory, to understand interactions between core and peripheral societies in the past is an example of:
(A) Chronometric dating.
(B) An interpretive framework in processual archaeology.
(C) An artefact characterization technique.
(D) A method of subsurface prospection.

173. What is a major limitation of dendrochronology?
(A) It can only date volcanic rocks.
(B) It can only provide a relative date.
(C) It requires a well-preserved piece of timber or charcoal with a sufficient number of rings that can be matched to a regional master sequence.
(D) It is only effective for objects older than 100,000 years.

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174. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : In an undisturbed archaeological context, a coin of Emperor Ashoka found in a layer above a layer containing a Harappan seal indicates the Ashokan layer is younger.
Reason (R) : This follows the Law of Superposition, a fundamental principle of stratigraphy.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

175. The term 'archaeological record' refers to:
(A) The sum total of material remains and their contexts that have survived from the past.
(B) The published reports and books about archaeology.
(C) The catalogue of a museum's archaeological collection.
(D) The laws and regulations governing archaeology.

176. Which of these sciences would be most helpful in analyzing the composition of a bronze sword to determine its alloy and potential origin?
(A) Sociology
(B) Chemistry or Physics (Materials Science)
(C) Zoology
(D) Botany

177. The 'Wheeler-Kenyon method' of excavation emphasizes:
(A) Rapidly clearing large horizontal areas.
(B) Careful excavation within a grid system, paying close attention to stratigraphy revealed in the balks (sections).
(C) The use of random test pits.
(D) Relying solely on remote sensing without any digging.

178. What is the primary difference between a 'random' and a 'systematic' prospection strategy?
(A) Random uses a formal statistical method for choosing survey units, while systematic aims for uniform coverage.
(B) Random is done on foot, while systematic is done from the air.
(C) Random prospection has no plan, while systematic prospection uses a grid or transects.
(D) Random prospection looks for artefacts, while systematic looks for sites.

179. A Post-Processual archaeologist analyzing a burial would be most interested in:
(A) Quantifying the nutritional value of the individual's diet.
(B) Using the burial as a simple data point in a regional settlement pattern analysis.
(C) Understanding how the burial reflects identity, status, and the symbolic beliefs of the community.
(D) Determining the carrying capacity of the local environment.

180. The time range for which Potassium-Argon dating is most effective is:
(A) Less than 1,000 years.
(B) 1,000 to 50,000 years.
(C) 50,000 to 100,000 years.
(D) Older than 100,000 years, extending to billions of years.

181. Match the archaeological terms in List I with their definitions in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. Scope of Archaeology
Q. Ethics of Archaeology
R. Aim of Archaeology
S. History of Archaeology
List II: (Definition)
1. The reconstruction of past lifeways and explaining culture change.
2. The moral principles that govern archaeological practice.
3. The chronological and intellectual development of the discipline.
4. The temporal and geographical extent of archaeological inquiry.
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

182. Which of the following is NOT a relative dating method?
(A) Typology
(B) Fission track dating
(C) Biostratigraphy
(D) Soil analysis

183. Read the following statements regarding the aims and methods of conserving archaeological sites.
Statement I : A key goal of conservation is to make an object look brand new.
Statement II : A key goal of conservation is to stabilize an object and prevent its further deterioration, while retaining its authentic material.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

184. The analysis of layered sediments in glacial lakes, known as varves, provides what kind of chronological information?
(A) An absolute chronology in calendar years for the duration of the lake's deposition.
(B) A relative sequence based on fossil content.
(C) A date for the last time the sediment was

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exposed to sunlight.
(D) An estimate of the age of organic matter within the sediment.

185. What does the recording and documentation stage of fieldwork primarily involve?
(A) Writing the final publication.
(B) Packing artefacts for transport to the lab.
(C) Creating detailed notes, drawings, maps, and photographs of all excavated features and find locations.
(D) Interviewing local residents about the site's history.

186. Read the following statements regarding the role of natural sciences in archaeology.
(i) Physics provides principles for radiometric dating methods.
(ii) Botany and Zoology help in reconstructing past environments and diets.
(iii) Geology helps in understanding stratigraphy and site formation processes.
(iv) Chemistry provides methods for analysing artefact composition.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii) and (iii)
(B) (ii) and (iv) only
(C) (i), (iii) and (iv)
(D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

187. What event is dated by the thermoluminescence (TL) method when applied to a piece of pottery?
(A) When the clay was originally formed.
(B) When the pot was last used.
(C) When the pot was discarded.
(D) When the pot was fired in a kiln.

188. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : The history of archaeology shows a shift from antiquarianism to a more scientific discipline.
Reason (R) : Early antiquarians were primarily collectors of curios, while later developments introduced systematic methods, stratigraphy, and a focus on answering specific research questions about the past.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

189. What are the social and political implications of this archaeological interpretation? This question is most likely to be asked by an archaeologist from which school of thought?
(A) Traditional Culture-History
(B) Processual Archaeology
(C) Post-Processual Archaeology
(D) Geoarchaeology

190. Which of the following is a key component of an archaeological report?
(A) A list of all project sponsors.
(B) A fictional story based on the findings.
(C) The current market value of the artefacts discovered.
(D) A detailed description of the methods used in data retrieval and analysis.

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191. Which of the following is NOT a form of relative dating?
(A) Radiocarbon dating
(B) Stratigraphy
(C) Seriation
(D) Fluorine analysis

192. What is the main purpose of archaeological conservation?
(A) To increase the aesthetic appeal of an artefact.
(B) To stabilize materials and prevent further decay.
(C) To prepare objects for sale.
(D) To reconstruct missing parts of an artefact completely.

193. The study of pollen grains to reconstruct past vegetation and climate is called:
(A) Petrology
(B) Palynology
(C) Paleography
(D) Pathology

194. The shift from a descriptive to an explanatory framework in archaeology, emphasizing systems theory and cultural ecology, is characteristic of:
(A) The processual phase.
(B) The antiquarian phase.
(C) The culture-historical phase.
(D) The post-processual phase.

195. Which of the following items can be dated using the radiocarbon method?
(A) A flint scraper.
(B) A piece of volcanic rock.
(C) A fragment of a burnt wooden post.
(D) A copper axe head.

196. The law of superposition is a key principle in:
(A) Radiocarbon dating
(B) Artefact classification
(C) Experimental archaeology
(D) Relative dating through stratigraphy

197. Which of the following correctly pairs a subsurface investigation technique with what it detects?
(A) Resistivity survey - Changes in magnetism
(B) Magnetometry - Changes in electrical resistance
(C) Remote Sensing (Satellite) - Large scale features like ancient canals or roads
(D) Ground Penetrating Radar - Chemical composition of soil

198. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Ethnographic analogy involves using the behavior of modern or recent peoples to interpret the archaeological record.
Statement II : This approach assumes that there are some fundamental similarities in human behavior and material culture across time.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

199. What distinguishes an 'artefact' from an 'ecofact'?
(A) An artefact is portable, while an ecofact is not.
(B) An artefact is from a historical period, while an ecofact is from a prehistoric period.
(C) An artefact is valuable, while an ecofact is not.
(D) An artefact is made or modified by humans, while an ecofact is a natural object of cultural relevance.

200. To arrange a group of closed contexts (like graves) in chronological order based on the changing frequencies of pottery styles is an application of:
(A) Typological seriation
(B) Fission-track dating
(C) Stratigraphic analysis
(D) Phosphate analysis

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201. Which of the following methods would be most appropriate for determining the age of sediments in which stone tools were found, by dating when the sediment was last exposed to light?
(A) Radiocarbon dating
(B) Potassium-Argon dating
(C) Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)
(D) Dendrochronology

202. Which of the following statements about the preparation of archaeological reports is correct?
(A) It is an essential ethical and scientific obligation to document and publish all findings and interpretations.
(B) It is an optional activity that is secondary to the primary field discovery of artefacts.
(C) It should focus exclusively on the most valuable finds to preserve publication space.
(D) The report should be kept confidential to protect the location of sensitive sites.

203. Read the following statements regarding dating methods.
(i) Fission track
(ii) Varve analysis
(iii) ESR dating
(iv) Biostratigraphy
(v) Typology
Which of the above are chronometric dating methods?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (i), (iv), and (v)
(C) (ii), (iii), and (iv)

(D) (iii), (iv), and (v)

204. The analysis of fluorine, nitrogen, and phosphate content in bones helps to determine:
(A) The absolute age of the bone on a calendar time scale.
(B) The relative age of bones found within the same archaeological deposit.
(C) The diet of the individual.
(D) The cause of death.

205. The primary focus of a 'traditional' or 'culture-historical' archaeologist would be:
(A) Explaining the processes of culture change through universal laws.
(B) Deconstructing the biases inherent in archaeological interpretation.
(C) Defining past cultures as normative entities and plotting their distribution in time and space.
(D) Simulating past social systems using computer models.

206. Match the field of science in List I with its application in archaeology in List II.
List I: (Science)
P. Geology
Q. Botany
R. Physics
S. Anthropology
List II: (Application)
1. Radiometric dating and geophysical survey.
2. Interpretation of social structures and cultural practices.
3. Analysis of stratigraphy and site formation processes.
4. Identification of plant remains for diet and environment reconstruction.
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

207. A 'feature' at an archaeological site is best described as:
(A) A non-portable, human-made element of the site, such as a pit, wall, or hearth.
(B) Any portable object made by humans.
(C) A particularly interesting or beautiful artefact.
(D) A natural seed or bone found at the site.

208. The 'New Archaeology' is another name for:
(A) Post-Processual Archaeology
(B) Processual Archaeology
(C) Culture-Historical Archaeology
(D) Environmental Archaeology

209. What is the fundamental principle of Palaeomagnetic dating?
(A) The constant decay of Carbon-14 in organic materials.
(B) The recording of reversals and changes in the Earth's magnetic field in geological formations or fired clays.
(C) The tracking of spontaneous fission of Uranium-238 atoms.
(D) The counting of annual growth rings in trees.

210. An ethical archaeologist who discovers human remains should:
(A) Treat them with dignity and respect, and consult with descendant communities where applicable.
(B) Immediately sell them to a medical school.
(C) Discard them as they are not artefacts.
(D) Keep them as a personal collection.

211. Which of the following is an example of 'systematic prospection'?
(A) Walking randomly across a field looking for anything interesting.
(B) Asking a local farmer where old things are found.
(C) Dividing a region into a grid and surveying each square with equal intensity.
(D) Scanning a small test pit to see what is below the surface.

212. Read the following statements regarding the aims and methods of conserving archaeological sites.
(i) To rebuild them completely based on artistic imagination.
(ii) To stabilize structures against erosion and collapse.
(iii) To control vegetation growth that can damage remains.
(iv) To provide controlled access for visitors to

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prevent damage.
(v) To sell parts of the site to private developers.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii), and (iv)
(C) (i), (iv), and (v)
(D) (iii), (iv), and (v)

213. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Experimental replication involves creating and using copies of ancient tools to understand their function and manufacture.
Statement II : This method helps create testable hypotheses about past technologies.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

214. The Cosmogenic nuclides method of dating is used to determine:
(A) The age when a pot was fired.
(B) The length of time a rock surface has been exposed.
(C) The age of death of an animal.
(D) The age of a tree.

215. The 'Antiquarian laws' are primarily concerned with:
(A) Establishing the market value of antiquities.
(B) The scientific principles of aging in ancient objects.
(C) The proper way to write a historical narrative for museum labels.
(D) The legal protection of archaeological heritage from destruction, illicit trade, and unregulated excavation.

216. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of archaeological data?
(A) It is a direct written record of past thoughts and beliefs.
(B) It is often incomplete and fragmentary.
(C) Its significance is highly dependent on its context.
(D) It includes artefacts, ecofacts, and features.

217. Which of the following dating methods relies on the principle of radioactive decay?
(A) Dendrochronology
(B) Varve Analysis
(C) Radiocarbon (C14) Dating
(D) Stratigraphy

218. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : Processual archaeologists often used concepts from cultural ecology.
Reason (R) : They viewed culture as a system of adaptation to the environment and sought to explain cultural changes primarily in terms of environmental and demographic factors.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

219. The identification of source material of an artefact, such as the specific quarry for a stone tool, is known as:
(A) Classification
(B) Typology
(C) Seriation
(D) Characterization (or Sourcing)

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220. Which of these is a non-invasive method of archaeological investigation?
(A) Vertical trenching
(B) Resistivity survey
(C) Horizontal stripping
(D) Test pitting

221. The debate between Processual and Post-Processual archaeology centers on:
(A) The use of radiocarbon dating versus potassium-argon dating.
(B) The best methods for conserving metal artefacts.
(C) Whether archaeology should be a science or a humanity.
(D) The proper format for an archaeological site report.

222. Consider the following dating methods.
(i) Radiocarbon Dating

(ii) Three-Age System (Stratigraphic concept)
(iii) Potassium-Argon Dating
Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of their development and application?
(A) (i), (ii), (iii)
(B) (ii), (i), (iii)
(C) (iii), (i), (ii)
(D) (ii), (iii), (i)

223. What is the type and nature of archaeological data?
(A) It is material, consisting of artefacts and features whose significance depends on context.
(B) It is exclusively textual, consisting of written records and manuscripts.
(C) It is purely environmental, focused on natural landscape changes.
(D) It consists of oral traditions passed down through generations.

224. Which of the following is a key tenet of post-processualism?
(A) The past can be known with absolute objectivity.
(B) The archaeologist's own background and biases can influence their interpretations.
(C) Material culture is a passive reflection of human behavior.
(D) Culture is primarily an adaptive mechanism for dealing with the environment.

225. A researcher wants to date a piece of pottery that is estimated to be 3000 years old. Which dating method would be most appropriate?
(A) Potassium-Argon dating
(B) Thermoluminescence (TL) dating
(C) Radiocarbon dating of the clay itself
(D) Fluorine analysis

226. Read the following statements regarding the retrieval of archaeological data.
(i) Site discovery through exploration and remote sensing.
(ii) Data recovery through systematic excavation.
(iii) Detailed recording and documentation of context.
(iv) Initial interpretation in the field.
(v) Final conservation in the museum.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (ii), (iv), and (v)
(C) (i), (iii), and (v)
(D) All of the above

227. The application of anthropological models in archaeology helps to:
(A) Bridge the gap between static material remains and the dynamic social behaviors that produced them.
(B) Provide absolute calendar dates for prehistoric sites.
(C) Determine the chemical composition of metal artefacts.
(D) Identify the species of animal bones found at a site.

228. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The history of archaeology began with the work of professional, scientifically trained researchers.
Statement II : The early phase of archaeology, known as antiquarianism, was characterized by the collection of curiosities and ancient objects, often without scientific recording.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

229. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Relative Dating - Provides a date in years BP.
(B) Chronometric Dating - Places events in a sequence without a fixed time scale.
(C) Cultural Stratigraphy - A relative dating method.
(D) Radiocarbon Dating - A relative dating method.

230. A primary goal of artefact analysis is:
(A) To determine the monetary value of each object.
(B) To organize artefacts into categories for the study of chronology, function, and culture.
(C) To prepare the most visually appealing objects for museum display.

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(D) To create perfect replicas for sale to tourists.

231. The method of dating that uses reversals in the earth's magnetic polarity is:
(A) Thermoluminescence
(B) Electron Spin Resonance
(C) Obsidian hydration
(D) Palaeomagnetic dating

232. Match the theoretical approaches in List I with their core concepts in List II.
List I: (Approach)
P. Traditional
Q. Processual
R. Post-Processual
S. Ethnography
List II: (Core Concept)
1. Culture as an adaptive system; explanation.
2. Contextual meaning; symbolism; agency.
3. Use of living cultures to model the past.
4. Culture history; description and classification.
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

233. The effective range of radiocarbon dating is approximately:
(A) Up to 1,000 years
(B) Up to 1 million years
(C) Up to 50,000 years.
(D) Up to 4.5 billion years

234. The term scope of archaeology refers to:
(A) The range of topics, time periods, and geographical areas that the discipline covers.
(B) The specific excavation tools used by an archaeologist.
(C) The ethical rules that archaeologists must follow.
(D) The lens of a microscope used for artefact analysis.

235. What is the zeroing event for OSL (Optically Stimulated Luminescence) dating of a sand grain?
(A) The last time the sand grain was heated to a high temperature.
(B) The formation of the quartz crystal within the parent rock.
(C) The death of an organism buried in the sand.
(D) The last time the sand grain was exposed to sunlight before burial.

236. The introduction of systematic, stratigraphic excavation by figures like Mortimer Wheeler was a major shift away from:
(A) The scientific methods of processual archaeology.
(B) Unsystematic treasure hunting and trenching.
(C) The interpretive concerns of post-processual archaeology.
(D) The use of remote sensing techniques.

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237. Which of the following is an example of an archaeological conservation method?
(A) Using X-rays to see inside a corroded metal object.
(B) Classifying pottery based on rim shape.
(C) Desalinating waterlogged wood to prevent cracking.
(D) Using C14 to date a piece of charcoal.

238. Read the following statements regarding methods of archaeological exploration.
(i) Systematic field walking.
(ii) Use of satellite imagery.
(iii) Resistivity survey.
(iv) Horizontal excavation of a house floor.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (i), (ii), and (iv)
(C) (ii), (iii), and (iv)
(D) (i), (iii), and (iv)

239. The following question consists of two statements—Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Select the correct answer using the options given below.
Assertion (A) : It is an ethical imperative for archaeologists to work with descendant communities.
Reason (R) : Descendant communities have a right to be involved in the study and stewardship of their own cultural heritage.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct

explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

240. The main contribution of social sciences like anthropology to archaeology is:
(A) Providing absolute dating methods.
(B) Offering theoretical models to interpret social organization from material remains.
(C) Helping to identify ancient flora and fauna.
(D) Supplying chemical analysis techniques for artefacts.

241. What is the fundamental unit of stratigraphy in an archaeological context?
(A) The artefact
(B) The single, identifiable layer or deposit.
(C) The site grid
(D) The ecofact

242. Which of the following is NOT a chronometric dating method?
(A) Biostratigraphy
(B) Radiocarbon (C14)
(C) Luminescence dating (TL and OSL)
(D) Dendrochronology

243. In preparing an archaeological report, the section on 'Methods of Interpretation' would likely discuss:
(A) The types of shovels and trowels used.
(B) The chemical formula for the clue used in conservation.
(C) The theoretical approaches and analogical reasoning used to make sense of the data.
(D) The grid coordinates of every single find.

244. Which question best reflects the aim of experimental archaeology?
(A) What is the absolute date of this artefact?
(B) What was the symbolic meaning of this object to its owner?
(C) Where did the raw material for this object come from?
(D) How could this tool have been manufactured and what wear patterns result from use?

245. Read the following statements regarding the relationship between archaeology and natural sciences.
(i) Natural sciences provide the theoretical models for social evolution.
(ii) Natural sciences offer techniques for absolute dating.
(iii) Natural sciences help in reconstructing past environments.
(iv) Natural sciences are irrelevant to modern archaeology.
(v) Natural sciences assist in the characterization of materials.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (i), (ii), and (iii)
(B) (ii), (iii), and (v)
(C) (i), (iv), and (v)
(D) (iii), (iv), and (v)

246. What does an archaeologist aim to achieve through classification and characterization of artefacts?
(A) To assign a precise financial value to each artefact for insurance purposes.
(B) To create order, enabling comparison and the study of technology and trade.
(C) To select the most beautiful objects for public display and discard the rest.
(D) To prove a pre-conceived theory about the past without ambiguity.

247. The principle that strata or layers are deposited in a time sequence, with the oldest at the bottom and the youngest at the top, is known as:
(A) The Law of Association
(B) The Principle of Uniformitarianism
(C) The Theory of Evolution
(D) The Law of Superposition

248. Which of the following is a key difference between Processual and Post-Processual archaeology?
(A) Processualism seeks objective, scientific explanations, while Post-Processualism emphasizes subjective, contextual interpretations.
(B) Processualists use C14 dating, while Post-Processualists reject it.
(C) Processualism focuses on historical texts, while Post-Processualism focuses on

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material culture.

(D) Processualism is a 19th-century theory, while Post-Processualism is a 20th-century theory.

249. Which of the following would be the MOST appropriate method to get an absolute date for a 500-year-old wooden house beam from a dry cave?

(A) Potassium-Argon dating
(B) Fission track dating
(C) Dendrochronology
(D) ESR dating

250. The comprehensive recording of an excavation is vital because:

(A) Excavation is a unique, unrepeatable experiment that destroys the original context of the data.
(B) It is required by law in most countries.
(C) It helps the excavator remember where they found the best artefacts.
(D) It provides a detailed inventory for the museum catalogue.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Archaeology, as a discipline, is fundamentally concerned with the systematic study of the human past through its material remains. Its primary definition revolves around the reconstruction of past lifeways and the understanding of cultural processes over time. The aims of archaeology are multifaceted, encompassing the documentation of cultural history, the explanation of cultural change, and the provision of a long-term perspective on human existence. The scope of this field is vast, stretching from the earliest evidence of hominin tool use millions of years ago to the material culture of the recent past. Central to its practice are the ethics of archaeology, which mandate responsible stewardship of the archaeological record. This includes a commitment to the preservation of cultural heritage, ethical conduct during fieldwork and analysis, and the respectful engagement with descendant communities and the public. The growth of archaeology from an antiquarian pursuit focused on collecting curiosities to a scientific discipline has been marked by the development of systematic methodologies for data recovery, analysis, and interpretation. This evolution underscores a continuous refinement of its aims and a broadening of its ethical considerations, ensuring that the study of the past is conducted with rigor and responsibility for the non-renewable cultural resources it investigates.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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251. Which of the following statements best encapsulates the primary definition of archaeology as presented in the paragraph?

(A) The collection and display of ancient artifacts for public appreciation.
(B) The systematic study of the human past through the analysis of material remains.
(C) The excavation of historical sites to uncover buried treasures and valuables.
(D) The exclusive study of written records to reconstruct historical timelines.

252. According to the text, the ethics of archaeology primarily mandate:

(A) responsible stewardship of the archaeological record and cultural heritage.
(B) prioritizing the speed of excavation over meticulous documentation.
(C) ensuring that all discovered artifacts are sold to private collectors.
(D) a focus on collecting curiosities for national museums.

253. The paragraph suggests that the historical growth of archaeology is characterized by a transition from:

(A) scientific investigation to treasure hunting.
(B) a focus on ethics to a focus on speed.
(C) antiquarian collecting to a systematic, scientific discipline.
(D) public engagement to secretive, private research.

254. Given the aims of archaeology described, which of the following research questions would be most central to the discipline?

(A) What were the market values of Roman coins in the 19th century?
(B) What is the most aesthetically pleasing artifact from ancient Egypt?

(C) What are the geological processes that lead to fossilization?
(D) How did changes in pottery technology reflect shifts in social organization?

255. The text implies that the archaeological record is considered a:
(A) renewable resource that can be endlessly explored.
(B) source of commercial profit for excavators.
(C) non-renewable resource requiring careful management.
(D) private property of the archaeologists who discover it.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The history and growth of archaeology in India is a distinct narrative, deeply intertwined with the region's colonial past and post-independence nation-building. The foundation of modern Indian archaeology is often traced back to the establishment of institutions during the British colonial period, which initiated systematic, albeit often imperialistically motivated, explorations and documentations of the subcontinent's vast archaeological heritage. The work of figures associated with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was pivotal in uncovering major sites and establishing foundational chronologies. However, this early phase was also critiqued for its focus on monumental architecture and classical texts, sometimes neglecting the broader spectrum of prehistoric and protohistoric cultures. Following independence, Indian archaeology underwent a significant transformation, with a renewed focus on national identity and a more scientific approach to investigation. There was a conscious effort to move beyond the colonial-era frameworks, incorporating new methodologies and theoretical perspectives. The history of Indian archaeology thus reflects a dynamic evolution from a colonial enterprise to a national discipline, dedicated to understanding the complexities of India's deep past and its diverse cultural trajectories, from the Stone Age to the early historic periods. This journey showcases a continuous process of methodological refinement and thematic diversification.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. According to the paragraph, the foundation of modern Indian archaeology is most closely associated with:
(A) indigenous traditions of historical record-keeping.
(B) the establishment of institutions during the colonial period.
(C) post-independence efforts to create a national identity.
(D) collaborations with American and European universities in the 21st century.

257. What was a primary critique of the early phase of archaeology in India as mentioned in the text?
(A) It completely ignored the existence of the Archaeological Survey of India.
(B) It focused excessively on prehistoric cultures at the expense of historical sites.
(C) It neglected monumental architecture and classical texts.
(D) It had a narrow focus on grand monuments, often overlooking protohistoric cultures.

258. The paragraph suggests that post-independence archaeology in India was characterized by:
(A) a shift towards a more scientific approach and a focus on national identity.
(B) a complete rejection of all colonial-era findings.
(C) a decrease in funding and institutional support for archaeological work.
(D) an exclusive focus on underwater archaeology.

259. Consider the following statements:
(i) The history of Indian archaeology is a monolithic and unchanging narrative.
(ii) The discipline's growth in India reflects a shift from a colonial to a national focus.
Which of the statements is/are correct based on the passage?
(A) Only (I)
(B) Both (I) and (II)
(C) Only (II)
(D) Neither (I) nor (II)

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260. The dynamic evolution of Indian archaeology mentioned in the text best refers to:
(A) the ongoing process of methodological improvement and broadening of research themes.
(B) the constant change in the leadership of the Archaeological Survey of India.
(C) the physical movement of artifacts from sites to museums.
(D) the political debates surrounding the ownership of cultural heritage.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The interdisciplinary nature of archaeology is one of its defining characteristics, as it actively draws upon the methodologies and theoretical frameworks of both the social and natural sciences to interpret the past. Its relationship with the social sciences, particularly anthropology and sociology, is fundamental. Archaeology is often considered a sub-discipline of anthropology, focusing on the material culture of past societies to understand social structures, belief systems, and cultural dynamics, goals it shares with cultural anthropology. Sociological models, for instance, can be applied to interpret patterns of settlement, social stratification, and group interaction from archaeological data. On the other hand, the natural sciences provide the essential tools for analyzing the physical context of archaeological remains. Geology helps in understanding site formation processes and stratigraphy, chemistry is used in artefact characterization and residue analysis, and biology, through fields like zooarchaeology and palaeobotany, helps reconstruct past environments and subsistence strategies. This symbiotic relationship is crucial; without the rigorous analytical techniques of the natural sciences, archaeological data would lack context and chronological control, and without the interpretive models of the social sciences, the material remains would be little more than a collection of objects, devoid of human meaning.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What is the central argument of the paragraph regarding the nature of archaeology?
(A) Archaeology is an autonomous discipline entirely separate from other sciences.
(B) Archaeology relies more heavily on the natural sciences than the social sciences.
(C) Archaeology is primarily a branch of history focused only on textual evidence.
(D) Archaeology is an interdisciplinary field that integrates social and natural sciences.

262. The relationship between archaeology and anthropology is described as fundamental because:
(A) both disciplines focus exclusively on modern human behavior.
(B) both disciplines seek to understand human cultures, one through material remains and the other often through living societies.
(C) anthropologists are solely responsible for excavating archaeological sites.
(D) archaeology provides the funding for all anthropological research.

263. The application of geological principles in archaeology is primarily useful for:
(A) interpreting the symbolic meaning of rock art.
(B) translating ancient inscriptions found on stone tablets.
(C) understanding site stratigraphy and formation processes.
(D) determining the social status of individuals buried in tombs.

264. Assertion (A): Without the natural sciences, archaeological data would lack context.
Reason (R) : Natural sciences provide methods for dating, environmental reconstruction, and understanding site formation.
(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(B) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
(C) (A) is false, but (R) is true.
(D) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

265. An archaeologist studying the diet of a prehistoric community by analyzing pollen and animal bones found at a site is primarily drawing upon which disciplines?
(A) Palaeobotany and zooarchaeology
(B) Sociology and political science

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(C) Chemistry and physics
(D) History and linguistics

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Archaeological data are the primary material evidence from which interpretations of the past are constructed. The type and nature of this data are exceptionally diverse, ranging from large-scale features like settlement patterns and architecture to portable artifacts such as pottery, tools, and ornaments. It also includes ecofacts, which are organic and environmental remains like animal bones, seeds, and soils, that provide information about the past environment and human subsistence. The retrieval of this data begins with exploration, a critical phase involving methods to locate and record archaeological sites and features. These methods can be broadly divided into random and systematic prospections. Random prospection might involve exploring an area based on local information or intuition, which can be effective but is inherently biased. In contrast, systematic prospection involves a structured and methodical survey of a defined area, often using grids or transects to ensure uniform coverage. This systematic approach allows for a more representative and statistically valid assessment of the archaeological landscape, identifying the density and distribution of sites and artifacts. The goal of both approaches is to build an inventory of cultural resources and to select promising locations for more intensive investigation, such as excavation, thereby laying the groundwork for all subsequent analysis.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. Which of the following is the best example of an 'ecofact' according to the text?
(A) A broken piece of a ceramic pot.
(B) A collection of ancient seeds found in a hearth.
(C) A flint arrowhead.
(D) The architectural remains of a house.

267. What is the principal difference between random and systematic prospection as described in the paragraph?
(A) Random prospection uses advanced technology, while systematic prospection does not.
(B) Systematic prospection employs a structured methodology for uniform coverage, unlike the more intuitive random approach.
(C) Random prospection is always more successful at finding sites than systematic prospection.
(D) Systematic prospection can only be conducted on foot, whereas random prospection can be done from the air.

268. The primary purpose of archaeological exploration as detailed in the text is to:
(A) locate, record, and assess the distribution of archaeological sites.
(B) complete the full excavation of every site in a region.
(C) exclusively search for valuable artifacts for museum collections.
(D) create a detailed ethnographic account of living communities in the area.

269. Why might a systematic prospection be considered more scientifically robust than a random one?
(A) It relies on chance discoveries, which are often more significant.
(B) It is less time-consuming and cheaper to conduct.
(C) It provides a more representative and statistically valid sample of the archaeological landscape.
(D) It avoids any form of documentation to speed up the process.

270. An archaeologist walking across a designated survey area in a series of straight, parallel lines to record all visible surface artifacts is engaging in:
(A) a type of random prospection.
(B) the process of ecofact analysis.
(C) the final stage of excavation.
(D) a form of systematic prospection.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Beyond surface exploration, the retrieval of archaeological data frequently requires subsurface investigation and excavation.

Modern archaeology employs a range of non-invasive techniques for subsurface investigation to map buried features before, or even in lieu of, excavation. Remote sensing, which includes aerial and satellite imagery, can reveal features like ancient field systems, fortifications, or roads that are imperceptible on the ground. Geophysical methods such as resistivity surveys measure variations in the electrical resistance of the soil to detect buried walls, ditches, or pits, which have different moisture retention properties than the surrounding matrix. Once a site is targeted for excavation, it becomes a process of controlled and destructive analysis. Archaeologists meticulously dig, record, and document the context of every artifact and feature. The method of excavation is chosen based on the research goals and nature of the site. The recording process is paramount, involving detailed notes, drawings, and photographs to capture the spatial relationships between finds and layers (stratigraphy). This documentation is critical because excavation is an unrepeatable experiment; once a site is dug, its original context is destroyed forever. Therefore, the quality of the recording directly determines the quality of the information that can be gleaned from the site.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is the primary advantage of using subsurface investigation techniques like resistivity surveys?
(A) They provide a complete substitute for excavation in all circumstances.
(B) They are most effective at finding small, portable metal artifacts.
(C) They can map buried features non-invasively before digging begins.
(D) They exclusively determine the absolute age of archaeological deposits.

272. The paragraph emphasizes that excavation is a destructive analysis because:
(A) it often uses heavy machinery that damages artifacts.
(B) the process permanently dismantles the original context of the site.
(C) archaeologists are not properly trained in preservation techniques.
(D) it is less scientific than remote sensing methods.

273. A resistivity survey would be most effective at identifying which of the following?
(A) The paint color on a buried pot.
(B) The inscription on a buried coin.
(C) The type of wood used to construct a roof.
(D) The remnants of a buried stone wall surrounded by soil.

274. Assertion (A): Meticulous recording and documentation are paramount during an archaeological excavation.
Reason (R) : Excavation is an unrepeatable process that destroys the original stratigraphic context.
(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

275. An archaeologist using satellite imagery to identify ancient irrigation canals in a desert landscape is employing which method?
(A) Resistivity survey
(B) Systematic prospection on foot
(C) Remote sensing
(D) Random excavation

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Following the retrieval of archaeological data, the crucial stage of artefact analysis begins. This process is not merely about describing objects but involves a systematic approach to extract meaningful cultural information. The analysis typically involves three key steps: categorization, classification, and characterization. Categorization is the initial step of sorting artifacts into broad groups based on a primary attribute, most commonly the raw material (e.g., stone, ceramic, metal, bone). This allows for manageable assemblages for further study. The next step, classification, is more detailed and involves creating typologies. Artifacts within a category are further subdivided into specific types based on a consistent set of attributes such as

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shape, size, decoration, or presumed function. A ceramic typology, for example, might differentiate vessel forms like bowls, jars, and plates. The final step, characterization, involves a deeper scientific analysis to determine the composition and provenance of the artifact's raw material. Techniques from the natural sciences are often employed here to answer questions like where the clay for a pot was sourced or what alloy was used to make a metal tool. Together, these methods transform a mass of recovered objects into a structured dataset, enabling archaeologists to study technological change, trade networks, and cultural affiliations.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What is the primary goal of artefact analysis as described in the text?
(A) To extract meaningful cultural information from material remains.
(B) To determine the monetary value of ancient objects.
(C) To sort artifacts for long-term storage in museums.
(D) To create aesthetically pleasing displays for the public.

277. An archaeologist sorting a mixed assemblage of finds into separate piles of 'stone tools', 'pottery sherds', and 'metal objects' is performing which step of analysis?
(A) Characterization
(B) Classification
(C) Interpretation
(D) Categorization

278. The process of creating a typology of artifacts, such as distinguishing different styles of projectile points based on their shape and size, is known as:
(A) categorization.
(B) classification.
(C) characterization.
(D) excavation.

279. Which of the following research questions would most likely be answered through the method of 'characterization'?
(A) Was this ceramic vessel a bowl or a jar?
(B) Is this artifact made of bone or ivory?
(C) Was the copper used to make this axe mined locally or imported?
(D) How many decorative motifs are on this pot?

280. Match the analytical step with its description:
List I (Step)
(a) Categorization
(b) Classification
(c) Characterization
List II (Description)
(i) Creating detailed types based on attributes like shape and decoration.
(ii) Scientific analysis of an artifact's raw material composition.
(iii) Initial sorting into broad groups based on material.
Select the correct match:
(A) (a)-(i), (b)-(ii), (c)-(iii)
(B) (a)-(ii), (b)-(iii), (c)-(i)
(C) (a)-(iii), (b)-(ii), (c)-(i)
(D) (a)-(iii), (b)-(i), (c)-(ii)

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The interpretation of archaeological data is a complex endeavor that moves beyond simple description to explain the behaviors and societies of the past. To achieve this, archaeologists employ various interpretive methods, often drawing from other disciplines. The application of sociological and anthropological models provides theoretical frameworks for understanding social structures, power dynamics, and ideological systems from patterned material remains. For example, a model of social stratification might be used to interpret differences in grave goods or housing sizes within a settlement. Ethnography, the study of living societies, serves as another powerful interpretive tool. By observing how contemporary or recent traditional communities make and use tools, organize their living spaces, or discard waste, archaeologists can generate analogies to better understand similar patterns found in the archaeological record. This approach is known as ethnoarchaeology. A related method is experimental replication, where archaeologists attempt to recreate past technologies and processes, such as manufacturing stone tools or

building an earth oven. These experiments provide firsthand insights into the feasibility, time, and skill involved in ancient practices, helping to test hypotheses about how artifacts were made and used. Together, these methods help to bridge the gap between static archaeological remains and the dynamic human behaviors that created them.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. The primary purpose of using sociological and anthropological models in archaeology is to:
(A) offer theoretical frameworks for interpreting social structures from material patterns.
(B) provide a definitive and final explanation for all archaeological phenomena.
(C) replace the need for excavation with purely theoretical work.
(D) exclusively study the behavior of modern, industrialized societies.

282. An archaeologist who lives with a modern community of potters to understand how their craft is learned and how workshops are organized to better interpret a prehistoric pottery production site is engaging in:
(A) experimental replication.
(B) ethnography (ethnoarchaeology).
(C) resistivity survey.
(D) artefact characterization.

283. Which of the following activities is a clear example of experimental replication?
(A) Photographing a collection of artifacts for a report.
(B) Trying to build a canoe using only replicas of neolithic stone adzes.
(C) Mapping the distribution of house foundations at a site.
(D) Studying the written accounts of a historical battle.

284. According to the text, how does ethnography aid archaeological interpretation?
(A) By generating analogies from living societies to understand past behaviors.
(B) By providing direct historical accounts of ancient peoples.
(C) By confirming the absolute date of archaeological sites.
(D) By offering a method to chemically analyze artifacts.

285. The overarching goal of the interpretive methods described in the paragraph is to:
(A) prove that ancient societies were identical to modern ones.
(B) focus interpretation solely on the largest and most impressive monuments.
(C) connect static material remains with the dynamic human actions that produced them.
(D) demonstrate the superiority of one interpretive model over all others.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Within the field of archaeological interpretation, several major theoretical approaches have shaped how archaeologists formulate questions and construct explanations about the past. The Traditional approach, dominant for the first half of the 20th century, was primarily concerned with culture history. Its main goals were to describe and catalogue cultures in time and space, focusing on questions of what, where, and when. This approach often equated changes in material culture with the migration of peoples or the diffusion of ideas. Beginning in the 1960s, Processual archaeology, also known as the New Archaeology, emerged as a critique of the traditional approach. It argued for a more scientific and explanatory framework, seeking to understand the processes of cultural change. Processualists applied systems theory and ecological models, viewing culture as an adaptive system and striving to formulate universal laws of cultural dynamics. In response to the perceived scientism and environmental determinism of processualism, Post-Processual archaeology developed in the 1980s. This approach emphasizes the subjectivity of interpretation and rejects the idea of a single, objective past. It highlights the importance of agency, ideology, symbolism, and the individual in shaping culture, and argues that material culture is actively manipulated in social strategies rather than being a passive reflection of behavior.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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286. An archaeological study focused on creating a detailed timeline of pottery styles in a region and mapping their geographic distribution would be most characteristic of which approach?
(A) Post-Processual
(B) Processual
(C) Experimental
(D) Traditional

287. What was the central aim of Processual archaeology, as described in the text?
(A) To reject all scientific methods in favor of subjective interpretation.
(B) To focus exclusively on the description and cataloguing of artifacts.
(C) To explain the processes of cultural change using scientific and systems-based models.
(D) To emphasize the unique historical trajectory of each culture without seeking general laws.

288. Post-Processual archaeology emerged as a critique of Processualism, primarily by:
(A) advocating for a return to the Traditional culture-history approach.
(B) emphasizing the role of symbolism, ideology, and the subjectivity of interpretation.
(C) arguing for a more rigorous application of the scientific method.
(D) proposing that culture is solely an adaptive response to environmental factors.

289. Assertion (A): Processual archaeology views culture as an adaptive system.
Reason (R) : It often uses ecological models to explain how societies adapt to their environment, leading to cultural change.
(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(B) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
(C) (A) is false, but (R) is true.
(D) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

290. An interpretation that argues a specific type of pottery was not just a functional tool but was actively used by a social group to signal its unique identity and status is most aligned with which archaeological approach?
(A) Post-Processual
(B) Traditional
(C) Processual
(D) Geophysical

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The final stages of an archaeological project involve the crucial responsibilities of reporting, conservation, and preservation. The preparation of archaeological reports is a fundamental ethical and professional obligation, as it is the primary means by which the knowledge gained from destructive excavation is disseminated to the scholarly community and the public. These reports must be comprehensive, detailing the research design, methodologies, data from explorations and excavations, artifact analyses, and interpretations. Without thorough reporting, the information from a site is effectively lost forever. Parallel to reporting is the imperative for the conservation and preservation of archaeological remains. The aim of conservation is to stabilize and protect artifacts and structural remains from deterioration after they are exposed to new environmental conditions upon excavation. Methods can range from chemical treatments for delicate objects to engineering solutions for stabilizing ancient walls. Preservation also extends to the management of entire archaeological sites. This is governed by antiquarian laws, which are legal frameworks established by nations to protect their cultural heritage from looting, illicit trafficking, and unregulated development. These laws define ownership of archaeological finds and regulate all archaeological activities, ensuring that the study and protection of the past are conducted in a legal and responsible manner.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. Why is the preparation of archaeological reports considered a fundamental obligation?
(A) It is the only way to secure funding for future projects.
(B) It allows for the sale of artifacts to museums and collectors.
(C) It disseminates knowledge from destructive excavations that cannot be repeated.
(D) It is a legal requirement for publishing in popular magazines.

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292. The primary aim of archaeological conservation, as stated in the text, is to:
(A) stabilize and protect remains from post-excavation deterioration.
(B) display artifacts in the most aesthetically pleasing way.
(C) determine the monetary value of archaeological finds.
(D) analyze the chemical composition of artifacts.

293. Antiquarian laws are best described as:
(A) ancient texts that describe how to conduct excavations.
(B) scientific principles governing the decay of artifacts.
(C) guidelines for writing archaeological reports for academic journals.
(D) legal frameworks designed to protect a nation's cultural heritage.

294. Which of the following scenarios best illustrates the concept of site preservation as governed by antiquarian laws?
(A) An archaeologist personally keeping all the artifacts found at a site.
(B) A construction company being required to fund an archaeological assessment before building on a historic area.
(C) A museum selling off parts of its collection to a private buyer.
(D) A researcher deciding not to publish the results of an excavation.

295. According to the paragraph, what is the relationship between excavation and reporting?
(A) Reporting is an optional activity to be done only if time permits.
(B) Excavation and reporting are unrelated and independent activities.
(C) A detailed report makes the destructive nature of an excavation scientifically justifiable.
(D) A report should only include interpretations and not the raw data.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Establishing a reliable chronology is a cornerstone of archaeological research, and this is achieved through a combination of relative and chronometric dating methods. Relative dating does not provide a calendar year but instead places artifacts, deposits, or sites in a sequence of older than or younger than one another. The most fundamental relative method is cultural stratigraphy, which is based on the principle of superposition: in an undisturbed sequence, the lower layers are older than the upper layers. Biostratigraphy applies a similar logic using the presence of extinct or evolving animal fossils. Typology, another key relative method, arranges artifacts in a chronological sequence based on changes in their stylistic features over time. Chemical methods like Fluorine, Nitrogen, and Phosphate (F-N-P) analysis can determine if bones from the same deposit are contemporaneous by comparing their chemical composition, as bones absorb elements like fluorine from groundwater at a steady rate. Soil analysis can also contribute by correlating soil horizons across different areas. These relative methods create a structural framework for chronology, which can then be anchored with absolute dates provided by chronometric techniques. They are indispensable for ordering the vast majority of the archaeological record where absolute dates may not be available or feasible to obtain.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What is the fundamental principle of relative dating?
(A) It provides a precise calendar date for an artifact.
(B) It determines the absolute age of a deposit in years before present.
(C) It relies solely on historical documents to establish timelines.
(D) It arranges events and objects in a chronological sequence without providing a specific year.

297. The principle of superposition is the basis for which dating method?
(A) Cultural stratigraphy
(B) Typology
(C) Fluorine analysis
(D) Biostratigraphy

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298. An archaeologist arranges a collection of pottery sherds into a sequence from simple, undecorated forms to complex, highly decorated forms, assuming this represents a development over time. This archaeologist is using:
(A) biostratigraphy.
(B) typology.
(C) phosphate analysis.
(D) cultural stratigraphy.

299. Fluorine, Nitrogen, and Phosphate analysis is used to:
(A) determine the absolute age of a single bone in calendar years.
(B) assess whether different bones found in the same geological layer are of a similar age.
(C) analyze the stylistic attributes of ceramic vessels.
(D) reconstruct the ancient climate by analyzing soil composition.

300. Based on the text, which of the following statements is true?
(A) Relative dating provides a foundational chronological framework that can be enhanced by absolute dates.
(B) Relative dating methods have been made obsolete by chronometric techniques.
(C) Biostratigraphy uses stylistic changes in artifacts to create a sequence.
(D) The principle of superposition states that upper layers are always older than lower layers.

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ANSWER

1. (B) To reconstruct past human life and culture through systematic study of material remains.

   Archaeology is a systematic discipline focused on studying human history and prehistory through the recovery and analysis of material culture. This scientific approach allows researchers to reconstruct past lifeways, cultural patterns, and social organizations that might not be recorded in historical texts. By examining physical remains like tools, structures, and organic residues, archaeologists build a comprehensive understanding of how ancient societies functioned and evolved over time.

2. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

   Archaeology is not limited to pre-literate societies but encompasses the entire human past, including periods with written records and even industrial eras. Contemporary archaeological practices utilize a multi-disciplinary approach, integrating methods from the natural and social sciences. This collaboration provides a holistic perspective on past human behavior, environmental interactions, and technological developments. It ensures that material evidence is analyzed alongside historical data for a more accurate reconstruction.

3. (B) (ii) and (iii)

   The ethical framework of modern archaeology emphasizes the preservation and long-term conservation of archaeological resources as a primary duty. Practitioners are obligated to treat excavated materials as a collective human heritage rather than personal property. Furthermore, the systematic documentation and timely publication of research findings are essential responsibilities. These actions ensure that the data remains available for scientific scrutiny and public knowledge while protecting sites from unauthorized exploitation.

4. (D) Alexander Cunningham

   Alexander Cunningham played a pivotal role in the systematic study of India's past, leading to his recognition as the father of Indian archaeology. He was instrumental in establishing the Archaeological Survey of India in eighteen sixty-one and served as its first Director-General. His extensive field surveys across the northern part of the country utilized accounts of ancient travelers to identify and document numerous historical sites, monuments, and inscriptions.

5. (C) Studying pottery-making in contemporary communities to understand ancient production.

   Ethnographic analogy serves as a vital interpretive tool in archaeology by drawing comparisons between living societies and those of the past. By observing contemporary traditional practices, such as pottery production or tool usage, researchers can formulate hypotheses about the function and manufacture of ancient material remains. This approach helps bridge the gap between static archaeological data and the dynamic social behaviors and cultural processes that originally produced the artifacts.

6. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

   The integration of natural sciences into archaeological research is essential for achieving a multi-dimensional understanding of antiquity. Scientific methodologies provide indispensable tools for chronometric dating, the analysis of chemical compositions, and the reconstruction of paleo-environments. These techniques allow archaeologists to objectively evaluate site formation processes and the environmental conditions that shaped human adaptation. Consequently, the collaboration between these fields ensures that interpretations are grounded in empirical data and rigorous evidence.

7. (D) Feature

   In archaeology, a feature refers to a non-portable, human-made element of a site that cannot be moved without altering or destroying its original context. Examples include hearths, walls, pits, and post-holes. Unlike artifacts, which are portable objects, features provide direct spatial evidence of past activities and structures. The

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arrangement of post-holes in a circular pattern, for instance, represents a structural component that reflects architectural design and settlement layout.

8. (A) Typological sequencing

Chronometric dating techniques provide an absolute age or age range for archaeological materials expressed in calendar years. Methods such as radiocarbon dating, potassium-argon analysis, and thermoluminescence utilize physical or chemical properties to calculate specific dates. In contrast, typological sequencing is a relative dating method. It arranges artifacts in a chronological order based on stylistic changes or morphological attributes without providing a fixed numerical age in actual calendar time.

9. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

Geophysical survey techniques are essential for non-invasive subsurface investigation. Resistivity surveys measure variations in soil electrical resistance, helping to identify buried walls or ditches. Remote sensing via satellites records electromagnetic radiation to locate large-scale features. Ground penetrating radar detects reflected electromagnetic signals to map buried structures. Finally, magnetometry measures anomalies in the earth's magnetic field caused by fired clay. These methods together provide a comprehensive map of buried remains.

10. (A) Classification

Classification is a fundamental analytical process in archaeology where artifacts are systematically organized into groups based on observable attributes. These characteristics typically include the material type, morphological shape, and decorative elements. By categorizing finds into specific types, researchers can simplify complex data, identify patterns in past behavior, and establish chronological or regional sequences. This structured approach facilitates more accurate comparisons between different archaeological sites and cultural assemblages.

11. (D) Subsurface investigations are only conducted after the excavation is complete.

Archaeological exploration involves various methods for locating and mapping sites without full-scale excavation. Random prospection follows non-systematic paths, whereas systematic prospection uses a grid or transects for comprehensive coverage. Remote sensing serves as a valuable pre-fieldwork tool for identifying anomalies from above. However, subsurface investigations like resistivity or magnetometry are typically conducted prior to or during excavation to guide the digging process, rather than only after completion.

12. (B) (ii), (iii) and (v)

Post-Processual archaeology emerged as a critique of the scientific objectivity claimed by Processualism. It emphasizes that archaeological interpretation is inherently subjective and influenced by the researcher's modern cultural and political context. This school of thought highlights the significance of symbolism, individual agency, and ideology in past societies. It rejects the idea of a single, universal truth, instead advocating for multiple, diverse perspectives when reconstructing and understanding the human past.

13. (C) Deeper layers of archaeological deposits are older than the layers above them.

Cultural stratigraphy is a fundamental relative dating principle based on the law of superposition. This concept posits that in an undisturbed sequence of layers, the materials found in deeper strata were deposited earlier and are therefore older than those in the layers above. By analyzing the vertical arrangement of these deposits, archaeologists can establish a chronological sequence of human occupation and cultural change at a specific site.

14. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The development of Processual archaeology, frequently termed New Archaeology, marked a significant shift toward utilizing scientific methodologies and objective reasoning. This movement sought to move beyond the traditional focus on descriptive culture-history, which primarily cataloged what occurred, where, and when. Instead, Processualism emphasized explaining the underlying processes of cultural change and human behavior. It viewed culture as an adaptive system, using rigorous testing and systems theory to interpret material remains.

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15. (A) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

The history of Indian archaeology progressed through several key milestones beginning with the founding of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in seventeen eighty-four. Subsequently, Alexander Cunningham was appointed as the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India. The early twentieth century saw major excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro under John Marshall. Later, Mortimer Wheeler introduced advanced stratigraphic methods at sites like Taxila and Arikamedu, refining the scientific standard of research.

16. (B) Reproducing ancient artefacts or structures to understand their manufacture and use-life.

Experimental replication is a methodology where archaeologists reproduce ancient artifacts, structures, or technologies using materials and techniques available to past societies. The primary goal is to gain practical insights into the manufacture, use-life, and efficiency of these objects. By testing these reconstructions, researchers can develop evidence-based hypotheses about ancient craftsmanship and labor. This experimental approach bridges the gap between material remains and the actual physical actions required to create them.

17. (B) Bone A is older than Bone B.

Fluorine analysis is a relative dating technique used specifically for skeletal remains found within the same site. Bones gradually absorb fluorine from groundwater at a rate dependent on the local geochemical environment. Consequently, older bones generally contain higher concentrations of fluorine compared to younger ones found in identical deposits. This method allows researchers to determine the relative sequence of burials or fossils, even if the absolute calendar age remains unknown.

18. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Dendrochronology provides highly accurate absolute dates by analyzing the annual growth rings of trees. Certain species produce unique ring patterns that vary according to seasonal environmental changes. By matching these sequences across overlapping samples, researchers can build a master regional chronology that stretches back thousands of years. This method allows for the precise dating of wooden structures or artifacts down to a specific calendar year, if a suitable regional sequence exists.

19. (C) Volcanic rock.

Potassium-argon dating is an absolute chronometric method used to determine the age of volcanic rocks and minerals. The technique relies on the steady radioactive decay of potassium-forty into argon-forty gas. When volcanic material cools and solidifies, the argon gas becomes trapped, effectively setting the radioactive clock. This method is particularly valuable for dating ancient geological strata associated with early human ancestors, spanning from hundreds of thousands to billions of years.

20. (D) Processual Archaeology - Culture as an Adaptive System

Processual archaeology is defined by its focus on culture as an adaptive system that humans use to respond to environmental and social pressures. This approach emphasizes the functional relationships between society and its surroundings. Unlike traditional archaeology, Processualism seeks to explain cultural change through scientific laws. It interprets material remains as reflections of how past populations adapted to their ecological niches, providing a framework for objective analysis of social evolution.

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21. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv)

Archaeological data retrieval involves both invasive and non-invasive techniques for gathering information about the past. Systematic excavation is fundamentally destructive because it removes materials from their original context, making thorough documentation essential. Remote sensing provides a non-invasive way to discover sites using aerial imagery. Effective retrieval also relies on careful recording during fieldwork to ensure the spatial relationships of artifacts are preserved for later analysis, allowing for rigorous scientific investigation.

22. (B) Stratigraphy

Stratigraphy is the study of layered deposits known as strata. This principle is vital for relative dating, allowing archaeologists to determine the chronological sequence of events. By analyzing the vertical order of these layers, researchers establish that lower deposits are generally older than those found above them. This systematic observation helps reconstruct the developmental history of ancient human occupations and provides the necessary context for interpreting associated cultural and biological remains.

23. (D) To restore the object to its original, pristine appearance.

The primary objective of archaeological conservation is to stabilize artifacts and structures, preventing further deterioration while maintaining their historical integrity. This process involves cleaning, treating, and protecting materials using reversible methods that do not obscure scientific data. While conservation facilitates future study and ensures long-term preservation, it does not aim to restore objects to a deceptive or pristine appearance. Authentic wear often provides critical information about an item's original usage.

24. (B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

Archaeological dating utilizes various scientific principles to establish chronologies. Radiocarbon dating measures the decay of carbon-fourteen in organic matter. Luminescence techniques calculate the age by measuring trapped electrons in crystalline structures. Fission track dating relies on counting spontaneous uranium-two-thirty-eight fission trails in glass or crystals. Lastly, palaeomagnetism uses recorded shifts in the earth's magnetic polarity within geological strata to determine relative sequences. These methods collectively allow for a rigorous temporal reconstruction.

25. (C) Zooarchaeology

Zooarchaeology is a specialized field that focuses on the study of animal remains recovered from archaeological sites. By analyzing bones, shells, and teeth, researchers reconstruct past human diets and animal husbandry. These remains provide valuable data regarding ancient environmental conditions. This multi-disciplinary approach is essential for understanding ecological relationships between past human populations and local animal species, revealing how prehistoric communities interacted with and utilized the fauna in their environment.

26. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The preparation of an archaeological report is a critical stage in the research process. A comprehensive report systematically includes methodology, data, analysis, and interpretations. Because excavation is destructive, this written record serves as the primary scientific archive of the site's original context. It allows future researchers to re-examine findings and facilitates the broader dissemination of cultural knowledge. The final report effectively ensures that the excavated information is preserved for academic and public study.

27. (D) Typological seriation

Typological seriation is a relative dating technique that organizes artifacts into a chronological sequence based on changes in their stylistic attributes over time. This method assumes that artifacts undergo gradual evolutionary shifts in design or material. By comparing the relative frequency of these types across different sites or layers, archaeologists can establish a temporal order without requiring an absolute numerical date. It is particularly effective for analyzing ceramic assemblages where styles evolve predictably.

28. (B) Explaining cultural processes and viewing culture as an adaptive system.

The Processual movement, or New Archaeology, introduced a framework that views culture as an adaptive mechanism humans use to interact with their environment. This perspective prioritizes explaining cultural processes and shifts through scientific methodologies. Rather than merely describing artifacts, Processualists seek to understand the functional systems of past societies. This systemic approach allows for a more objective analysis of how environmental factors and demographic changes influence social evolution and technological development.

29. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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Nitrogen analysis is a reliable relative dating method for skeletal remains found at a single site. It is based on the principle that nitrogen, a component of bone collagen, gradually decreases as the protein decays. By comparing nitrogen levels in bones from the same environment, researchers can determine which remains are older. This loss occurs at a predictable rate, facilitating the chronological sequencing of biological samples and helping to identify intrusive burials within deposits.

30. (D) A legal framework designed to protect and regulate archaeological heritage resources.

An antiquarian law serves as a vital legal framework for the protection and regulation of a nation's archaeological heritage. These regulations are designed to prevent the unauthorized destruction, illegal trade, and unregulated excavation of historical artifacts and sites. By establishing state stewardship over cultural resources, such laws ensure that significant discoveries are properly documented, conserved, and managed for the public benefit rather than private profit or unscientific, destructive exploitation.

31. (A) A natural object with cultural relevance that was not modified by humans.

In the archaeological record, an ecofact is a natural object found at a site that holds cultural significance but has not been modified by human action. These items include organic remains such as seeds, pollen, animal bones, and charcoal, which provide critical information about past environments and human diets. Unlike portable artifacts, ecofacts reflect the ecological context and natural conditions surrounding ancient human activities, helping researchers reconstruct the landscape and subsistence strategies.

32. (B) Determining the relative age of bones found in the same deposit.

The combination of fluorine, nitrogen, and phosphate analysis provides a reliable method for determining the relative contemporaneity of skeletal remains found within a single archaeological deposit. These chemical tests measure the gradual absorption or loss of specific elements after burial. Because these processes depend on the local soil and groundwater conditions, they allow researchers to identify intrusive remains or confirm that multiple bones were deposited during the same general time period.

33. (B) (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Archaeological prospection encompasses various non-invasive techniques designed to locate and map subsurface features before excavation begins. Methods such as systematic field walking identify surface scatters of artifacts, while satellite imagery helps detect large-scale landscape patterns. Geophysical tools, including resistivity meters, measure soil properties to reveal buried structures. These combined approaches provide a comprehensive understanding of a site's layout and extent without disturbing the original stratigraphic layers, guiding future scientific research.

34. (A) Organic materials such as bone, wood, and charcoal.

Radiocarbon dating is a widely used chronometric method for determining the age of organic materials. This technique relies on the steady radioactive decay of the carbon-fourteen isotope, which ceases to be replenished once an organism dies. By measuring the remaining concentration of this isotope in samples like charcoal, wood, or bone, researchers can calculate the time elapsed since death. This method provides absolute dates back to approximately fifty thousand years ago.

35. (C) The application of scientific techniques to determine the source material or composition of an artefact.

Characterization in artifact analysis involves the application of scientific techniques to identify the specific material composition and geographical origin of an object. By using methods like chemical or mineralogical analysis, archaeologists can determine the source of raw materials, such as obsidian or clay. This information is crucial for reconstructing ancient trade networks, exchange patterns, and technological processes. It allows researchers to move beyond simple description to understand the economic and social connections of past societies.

36. (C) (iii), (ii), (i)

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The intellectual development of archaeology has progressed through three primary theoretical phases. Traditional culture-historical archaeology dominated until the mid-twentieth century, focusing on descriptive chronologies and mapping cultures. In the nineteen sixties, Processual or New Archaeology emerged, emphasizing scientific explanation and culture as an adaptive system. Finally, Post-Processual archaeology developed in the nineteen eighties as a critique, highlighting subjective interpretation, symbolism, and individual agency in the reconstruction of the human past.

37. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Thermoluminescence dating is an absolute chronometric method used for materials with a crystalline structure, such as pottery or burnt flint. The technique measures the amount of light emitted when the sample is heated, which represents the accumulated radiation dose since the material was last exposed to intense heat. Because the energy accumulation occurs at a predictable rate, the intensity of the light is proportional to the time elapsed since the original firing event.

38. (B) Site formation processes

The study of site formation processes examines how archaeological sites are created, altered, and preserved through the interaction of human and natural forces. Cultural processes include human activities like construction, waste disposal, and abandonment. Natural processes involve environmental factors such as erosion, sedimentation, and animal activity. Understanding these complex dynamics is essential for archaeologists to accurately interpret the spatial distribution of remains and distinguish between primary deposits and secondary, disturbed contexts.

39. (D) Relative dating provides a sequence (older/younger), while chronometric dating provides an age in years.

Relative dating and chronometric dating serve different but complementary roles in archaeological temporal reconstruction. Relative methods, such as stratigraphy or seriation, establish the sequence of events by determining whether an object is older or younger than another without assigning a specific age. Chronometric methods, including radiocarbon or potassium-argon dating, provide an absolute date expressed in calendar years. Together, these techniques allow researchers to build both a sequential order and a numerical timeline.

40. (A) Palynology - Study of ancient pollen to reconstruct past vegetation

Palynology is a specialized discipline that significantly contributes to archaeological research by studying ancient pollen grains recovered from soil samples. These microscopic remains are highly resistant to decay and can be identified to specific plant taxa. By analyzing the vertical changes in pollen assemblages, researchers can reconstruct past vegetation patterns and regional climate shifts. This information provides essential context for understanding how ancient human populations adapted their subsistence strategies to changing environments.

41. (C) To identify buried features by measuring soil resistance.

A resistivity survey is a non-invasive geophysical technique used to identify buried archaeological features without excavation. The method involves passing an electrical current through the ground to measure the resistance of the soil. Subsurface anomalies, such as stone walls or compacted floors, typically show higher resistance than the surrounding earth, while moisture-retaining features like ditches or pits show lower resistance. This allows researchers to create a map of buried structures and plan excavation.

42. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The principle of superposition is a cornerstone of relative dating in archaeology and geology. It states that in an undisturbed sequence of stratigraphic layers, each layer is older than the one above it and younger than the one below. This allows researchers to establish a chronological order of deposition and human occupation. By observing the vertical arrangement of strata, archaeologists can systematically reconstruct the sequence of past events and changes in cultural material over time.

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43. (D) Rebuilding ruined structures to what they might have looked like originally.

The conservation of archaeological sites focuses on stabilizing remains to prevent further decay while maintaining their scientific and historical authenticity. Key aims include protecting structures from environmental threats and making them accessible for public education. However, conservation does not traditionally involve rebuilding ruins to a speculative original appearance. Modern ethical standards prioritize the preservation of authentic material over aesthetic reconstruction, ensuring that the site remains a reliable source of information for future scientific research.

44. (A) (i) and (ii)

The application of sociological and anthropological models is essential for interpreting past social structures from material remains. These frameworks provide archaeologists with the tools to understand complex concepts such as kinship, social status, and economic trade. By using established theories on human behavior, researchers can develop testable hypotheses about how ancient societies were organized. This interdisciplinary approach bridges the gap between static archaeological data and the dynamic social realities of the human past.

45. (C) Varve analysis

Varve analysis is an absolute dating method based on the study of annual sediment layers deposited in glacial lakes. Each varve consists of two distinct sub-layers representing seasonal changes in sedimentation over a single year. By counting these pairs, researchers can build a precise chronological sequence that reflects past environmental conditions and climatic variations. This technique is particularly useful in regions with significant glacial history, providing a fine-grained timeline for geological and archaeological events.

46. (D) Wind-blown sand or sediment grains

Optically Stimulated Luminescence is a chronometric dating method particularly suited for dating wind-blown sand or mineral grains within geological deposits. The technique measures the last time the crystalline material was exposed to sunlight before being buried. Exposure to light resets the luminescence clock, and subsequent burial allows radiation to accumulate. By measuring this stored energy in the laboratory, researchers can determine the exact time elapsed since the sediment was last on the surface.

47. (B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

Archaeological data is categorized into distinct types based on their nature and portability. Artifacts are portable objects made or modified by humans. Ecofacts are natural remains, such as seeds or bones, that provide environmental context. Features are non-portable human-made elements, like hearths or walls, that are fixed in space. A site represents a distinct spatial clustering of these artifacts, ecofacts, and features, providing the primary context for investigating past human activities and settlements.

48. (B) The sequence of faunal (animal) fossils in geological layers.

Biostratigraphy is a relative dating technique that utilizes the known sequence of faunal remains within geological strata to determine the age of archaeological deposits. The method relies on the principle that different animal species lived during specific time intervals. By identifying the fossils present in a particular layer, researchers can correlate that layer with other deposits containing the same species. This allows for the establishment of a chronological framework based on biological evolution over time.

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49. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Obsidian hydration dating is a chronometric method used for artifacts made from volcanic glass. The process begins when a fresh surface is exposed by flaking, at which point the stone starts absorbing water from the environment. This absorption creates a visible hydration rim that thickens at a predictable rate over time. By measuring the thickness of this rim in the laboratory, researchers can estimate the time elapsed since the tool was originally manufactured or modified.

50. (B) (ii), (i), (iii)

Absolute dating methods vary in their effective time ranges and are chosen based on the age of

the material. Dendrochronology provides precise calendar dates for recent centuries and millennia using tree rings. Radiocarbon dating is effective for organic samples up to approximately fifty thousand years old. Potassium-argon dating is used for geological layers associated with very distant prehistory, covering millions of years. This progression allows researchers to accurately date materials from the recent past to early evolution.

51. (C) Tooth enamel

Electron Spin Resonance is a chronometric dating method that is particularly effective for materials like tooth enamel and calcite that are difficult to date using other techniques. The method measures the accumulation of trapped electrons within the crystalline structure of the sample caused by natural background radiation. Because this accumulation occurs at a steady rate after burial, the ESR signal provides a way to calculate the absolute age of skeletal remains and geological deposits.

52. (D) A system dividing human history into the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age.

The three-age system is a fundamental chronological framework that organizes human prehistory and history into three distinct periods: the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age. Developed in the nineteenth century, this system is based on the sequence of materials used to manufacture tools and weapons. It provided one of the first systematic ways to categorize archaeological remains and remains a central concept for understanding the technological evolution of ancient societies.

53. (C) Post-processual interpretation

Data retrieval in archaeology encompasses the practical methods used to discover and recover physical remains from the field. This includes non-invasive techniques like resistivity surveys and various forms of prospection, as well as invasive methods like systematic excavation. In contrast, post-processual interpretation is a theoretical framework used to analyze and assign meaning to the data after it has been retrieved. While interpretation is essential for understanding the past, it is not a method of data collection.

54. (B) Traditional Archaeology

The culture-historical approach, dominant in traditional archaeology, focuses on defining and describing past cultural groups based on their material remains. This perspective emphasizes the creation of regional chronologies and the spatial distribution of cultures across time. It primarily catalogs stylistic changes in artifacts to reconstruct historical sequences of when and where specific groups lived. While foundational, this approach often prioritizes descriptive data over explaining the underlying social and environmental processes that drive cultural change and evolution.

55. (A) (i), (ii), (iii), (v)

A professional archaeological report is an essential scientific document that records every aspect of an excavation. It must include a detailed description of the methodology, a catalogue of significant finds, and high-quality visual documentation such as maps and photographs. The report also provides the analysis and interpretation of the data, ensuring the information is preserved for future research. Fictional or speculative narratives without evidence are excluded to maintain the scientific integrity and objectivity of the publication.

56. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Phosphate analysis of soil is a valuable geochemical technique for identifying areas of past human activity. Human occupation typically results in the accumulation of organic waste, bones, and excrement, all of which are rich in phosphorus. Unlike many other organic components, phosphorus becomes chemically fixed in the soil and can persist for thousands of years. By measuring elevated phosphate levels, archaeologists can detect features like habitation areas, animal pens, or burial sites that might otherwise be invisible.

57. (C) Horizontal or area excavation

Horizontal or area excavation is a strategy designed to uncover large, continuous portions of an archaeological site to reveal the spatial layout of a settlement from a specific time period. This method allows researchers to observe the

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relationships between contemporary houses, workshops, and open spaces. By exposing a broad horizontal surface, archaeologists can gain a holistic view of community organization and daily life, which is difficult to achieve using narrow vertical soundings or small test pits.

58. (A) Approximately 5,730 years

The half-life of carbon-fourteen, which is approximately five thousand seven hundred and thirty years, is the fundamental constant used in radiocarbon dating. This duration represents the time required for half of the radioactive carbon isotopes in an organic sample to decay into nitrogen. By measuring the remaining ratio of carbon-fourteen to stable carbon, scientists can calculate the time since the organism died. This constant allows for accurate absolute dating of remains from the recent past back to fifty thousand years.

59. (D) Offers models and theories for interpreting past social structures and behaviours.

Archaeology relies heavily on social sciences like sociology and anthropology to provide interpretive frameworks for understanding past human behavior. These disciplines offer theoretical models regarding kinship, social hierarchy, economic exchange, and political organization. By applying these models to material remains, archaeologists can move beyond simple descriptions of artifacts to reconstruct the complex social realities of ancient communities. This interdisciplinary approach is essential for explaining how past societies functioned and changed over time within their specific contexts.

60. (B) It is primarily used for dating organic materials like wood and charcoal.

Fission track dating is a chronometric method specifically used for dating minerals and volcanic glass, such as zircon or obsidian. The technique relies on counting the microscopic damage trails left by the spontaneous fission of uranium-two-thirty-eight isotopes. These tracks accumulate at a predictable rate over time. When the material is heated, the tracks are erased, effectively resetting the dating clock. This method is crucial for dating volcanic events and associated geological strata, but it cannot date organic remains.

61. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

Archaeological research utilizes diverse methods to interpret past human activities. Ethnography involves studying living groups to understand patterns like mobility. Experimental replication reproduces ancient techniques, such as flintknapping, to gain insights into tool manufacture. Typology systematically classifies artifacts based on their stylistic attributes. Stratigraphy involves observing the vertical arrangement of soil layers to establish relative chronologies. These various approaches together provide a rigorous framework for reconstructing historical sequences and explaining the technological and social developments of ancient societies.

62. (D) Optically Stimulated Luminescence

OSL stands for Optically Stimulated Luminescence, a chronometric dating method that measures the last time mineral grains were exposed to sunlight. This technique is particularly effective for dating wind-blown or water-borne sediments. Exposure to light resets the luminescence signal, and subsequent burial allows the grains to accumulate energy from natural background radiation. In the laboratory, light stimulation is used to release this stored energy, allowing researchers to calculate the absolute age of the burial event.

63. (A) To ensure conservation of archaeological material for future generations.

A primary ethical responsibility of any archaeologist is to prioritize the stewardship and conservation of the archaeological record. This involves the careful preservation of artifacts and the detailed documentation of their context for future researchers. Because excavation is an inherently destructive process, archaeologists must ensure that the information retrieved is made accessible through publication. Protecting sites from illicit trade and ensuring that cultural resources are managed for the public good are fundamental tenets of the profession.

64. (B) The length of time a rock surface has been exposed to cosmic rays.

Cosmogenic nuclides dating is a specialized chronometric method used to determine how

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long a rock surface has been exposed to cosmic radiation. When minerals are at or near the earth's surface, they interact with high-energy particles from space, producing unique isotopes at a predictable rate. By measuring the concentration of these nuclides, researchers can calculate the duration of exposure. This technique is valuable for dating geological features, landforms, and the formation of archaeological rock surfaces.

65. (B) Traditional archaeology was merely descriptive and failed to explain cultural processes.

The Processual critique of traditional archaeology centered on the argument that the field had become overly descriptive and focused on cataloging historical sequences. Processualists, or New Archaeologists, argued that research should instead seek to explain the underlying causes of cultural change through scientific methodologies. They advocated for the use of systems theory and the formulation of general laws of human behavior. This shift moved the discipline from a culture-historical focus to an explanatory, scientific framework.

66. (A) (i), (ii), and (iii)

The interpretation of archaeological data relies fundamentally on understanding an object's original context, which includes its precise provenience, surrounding matrix, and association with other finds. Provenience refers to the three-dimensional location of an item. Association concerns its relationship with contemporary artifacts and features. Together, these elements provide the primary evidence for determining an artifact's function and significance. Monetary value is irrelevant to scientific interpretation and does not contribute to reconstructing past lifeways or cultural processes.

67. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Palaeomagnetic dating is a relative dating technique based on recorded shifts in the earth's magnetic field rather than radioactive decay. Certain materials, such as volcanic rocks and fired clay, preserve the orientation of the magnetic poles at the time they cooled or were heated. By comparing these signatures to a known master sequence of geomagnetic reversals and polar shifts, researchers can determine the chronological period of the sample. This method provides essential temporal data for geological and historical contexts.

68. (D) Organize them into manageable groups based on shared attributes for analysis and comparison.

Typology is a fundamental analytical tool used to organize large collections of artifacts into manageable groups based on shared physical attributes. By categorizing objects by their material, shape, and decoration, archaeologists can more easily identify patterns and compare different sites. This systematic arrangement facilitates the study of technological development, stylistic evolution, and cultural exchange. Typology is also essential for establishing relative chronologies through seriation, allowing researchers to track how specific artifact forms change over time.

69. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Dendrochronology is highly effective in temperate regions where trees produce distinct annual growth rings in response to seasonal climatic variations. These rings provide a precise yearly record that can be used for absolute dating. However, the method is limited in tropical regions where the lack of strong seasonal changes often results in trees growing continuously or producing indistinct rings. Without clear, annual boundaries, it is impossible to match sequences and build a reliable master chronology for those environments.

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70. (B) Archaeology

Archaeology is defined as the systematic study of the human past through the recovery and analysis of material remains. This field focuses on artifacts, features, and environmental data to reconstruct ancient lifeways and explain cultural changes over time. Unlike history, which relies primarily on written documents, archaeology provides a direct window into the lives of all past human societies, including those without written records. It bridges the gap between the natural and social sciences to understand humanity.

71. (D) Surface collection

Subsurface investigation in archaeology involves techniques specifically designed to

detect or map buried features before excavation. Ground-penetrating radar, resistivity surveys, and magnetometry are common geophysical methods used to find underground structures non-invasively. Remote sensing can also reveal subsurface anomalies through aerial imagery. In contrast, surface collection is a method of gathering artifacts already exposed on the ground. While useful for identifying site locations, it does not involve investigating the hidden layers beneath the modern surface.

72. (B) (ii), (iii), (i)

The development of Indian archaeology was shaped by several key figures in a specific chronological sequence. Alexander Cunningham served as the first Director-General in the late nineteenth century, conducting extensive surveys. He was followed by John Marshall, who oversaw the world-shaking discovery of the Indus Valley Civilization in the early twentieth century. Finally, Mortimer Wheeler arrived in the nineteen-forties, introducing rigorous stratigraphic excavation techniques that modernized the scientific standards of the Archaeological Survey of India for future researchers.

73. (C) The role of the individual, ideology, and symbolism were neglected.

The Post-Processual critique argued that Processual archaeology focused too heavily on environmental adaptation and scientific laws, thereby neglecting the human elements of the past. Critics emphasized that culture is not just a biological adaptation but is also shaped by individual agency, ideology, and complex symbolic meanings. This movement advocated for a more contextual approach that acknowledges multiple interpretations. It highlighted that past people were active agents who used material culture to express identity, status, and social beliefs.

74. (A) A deep, vertical sounding or trench (Wheeler method).

To understand the chronological development of a multi-period urban site, a vertical excavation or sounding is the most appropriate strategy. This method, often associated with Mortimer Wheeler, involves digging a deep trench to expose the full sequence of stratigraphic layers. By examining the vertical profile, archaeologists can trace changes in building styles and artifact types from the earliest occupation at the bottom to the latest at the top. This provides a clear temporal framework for the site.

75. (D) They are complementary disciplines, with archaeology providing material evidence to challenge or support texts.

Archaeology and history are complementary fields that work together to provide a comprehensive understanding of the human past. While history focuses on the analysis of written records, archaeology investigates physical remains such as artifacts, buildings, and environmental data. Archaeology is particularly vital for periods without documentation and for providing material evidence that can support, challenge, or expand upon historical narratives. Together, they offer a multi-dimensional perspective on how ancient societies lived, functioned, and evolved over time.

76. (B) The bones being compared have been buried in the same geochemical environment.

Relative dating through fluorine, nitrogen, and phosphate analysis relies on the principle that chemical changes in bone occur at rates dictated by the surrounding soil. Because groundwater levels and soil chemistry vary between locations, these methods cannot provide a universal chronometric scale. They are only effective for comparing bones buried within the same site and identical geological conditions. Under these controlled circumstances, differences in element concentrations can accurately indicate which remains were buried earlier and which are later additions.

77. (C) Potassium-Argon (K/Ar) dating

Potassium-argon dating is the most suitable method for determining the age of geological layers from the distant past, such as a two-million-year-old volcanic deposit. This chronometric technique relies on the radioactive decay of potassium into argon gas, which is trapped when volcanic material solidifies. While radiocarbon dating is limited to approximately fifty thousand years and dendrochronology to several thousand, K-Ar dating covers millions of years. It is essential

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for providing absolute dates for early hominin fossil contexts.

78. (C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

Archaeological theory has evolved through several distinct frameworks. Processual archaeology views culture as an adaptive system and emphasizes scientific explanation. Post-Processualism focuses on agency, symbolism, and multiple subjective interpretations. Culture-history is concerned with describing the spatial and chronological distribution of groups through artifact catalogs. Experimental archaeology involves replicating ancient techniques to understand past manufacturing processes. Together, these diverse approaches provide a comprehensive toolkit for reconstructing lifeways and explaining the complex mechanisms of cultural change and human social development.

79. (A) Methods of exploration and excavation used to find and recover archaeological remains.

The retrieval of archaeological data refers to the systematic methods used in the field to discover and recover material remains. This encompasses both non-invasive exploration techniques, such as surface surveys and remote sensing, and invasive methods like stratigraphic excavation. These processes are designed to gather primary data and record its original context before the site is disturbed. Retrieval is the foundational stage of research, providing the physical evidence necessary for subsequent laboratory analysis and historical interpretation.

80. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

Luminescence dating techniques, including thermoluminescence and optically stimulated luminescence, are used to determine the last time a mineral was exposed to energy. TL measures the time since a crystalline material, like pottery, was last heated. OSL measures the time since sediment was last exposed to sunlight. Unlike radiocarbon dating, these methods are not limited to organic materials and are commonly applied to ceramics and wind-blown sands. They provide absolute dates by calculating accumulated natural radiation.

81. (B) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

Artifact analysis follows a systematic sequence of steps to ensure accurate data management. The process begins with initial cleaning and sorting in the field to stabilize finds. Next, artifacts are categorized into broad groups based on material, such as stone or bone. Detailed classification then creates specific typologies based on physical attributes. Finally, characterization uses scientific techniques to determine composition or raw material sources. This structured workflow allows researchers to build a comprehensive understanding of ancient technology and trade.

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82. (A) Legislation concerned with the protection of cultural heritage.

An antiquarian law is a form of national or international legislation designed to protect and regulate a society's archaeological and historical heritage. These laws establish legal frameworks to prevent the illegal excavation, looting, and illicit trade of artifacts. By regulating how cultural resources are managed and ensuring that significant discoveries are properly documented and conserved, antiquarian laws protect the public interest in the past. They ensure that heritage remains accessible for scientific research and educational purposes.

83. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The context of an artifact is essential for archaeological interpretation as it provides information about the object's original situation. Context includes the three-dimensional provenience, the surrounding sediment or matrix, and the association with other contemporary finds. Without this spatial data, an artifact loses its scientific value and becomes a mere curiosity. By analyzing context, archaeologists can infer how an item was used, when it was deposited, and what role it played in the past society.

84. (D) It has an effective age limit of around 50,000 years.

Radiocarbon dating is a vital chronometric tool, but it has a significant temporal limitation due to the relatively short half-life of the carbon-fourteen isotope. After approximately fifty thousand years, the amount of radioactive carbon remaining in an organic sample becomes too small to measure accurately with current

technology. Consequently, this method is unsuitable for dating materials from the middle and early Paleolithic or geological strata from millions of years ago, requiring other radiometric techniques for deeper time.

85. (C) Post-Processual Archaeology

Post-Processual archaeology is characterized by the belief that the past is not an objective reality but is actively constructed through modern interpretation. This school of thought emphasizes multivocality, suggesting that multiple, equally valid interpretations of the same material remains can exist depending on the viewer's background. It rejects the search for universal scientific laws, focusing instead on the subjective meanings, symbols, and ideologies of past individuals. This approach highlights the inherent biases and political contexts of archaeological narratives.

86. (B) Luminescence dating (TL)

Relative dating methods establish the sequence of events without provide an exact age in years. Techniques like stratigraphy, typology, and biostratigraphy allow archaeologists to determine if one deposit or artifact is older than another based on its position or stylistic evolution. In contrast, luminescence dating, such as thermoluminescence, is a chronometric method. It measures the accumulation of trapped electrons in crystalline materials to provide an absolute date expressed in numerical calendar years since the object was last heated.

87. (D) Provide a representative sample of sites in a given area.

Systematic prospection is a structured field survey method designed to provide a representative and unbiased sample of archaeological remains within a specific region. Unlike unsystematic searching, it uses a standardized grid or transects to ensure uniform coverage of the landscape. This approach allows researchers to identify different types of sites, from large settlements to small scatters, and understand their spatial distribution. Systematic surveys are essential for reconstructing regional settlement patterns and assessing the overall archaeological potential of an area.

88. (A) (i), (ii), and (iii)

Modern archaeological ethics are centered on the responsible stewardship of the irreplaceable archaeological record. This includes being accountable to descendant communities who have a stake in their own cultural heritage. Furthermore, archaeologists have a professional obligation to document their work thoroughly and ensure the prompt public dissemination of their research findings. Ethical standards strictly oppose the commercialization of artifacts, as selling antiquities encourages looting and destroys the scientific context necessary for understanding past human societies.

89. (C) Typological seriation

Typological seriation is a relative dating technique used to arrange assemblages into a chronological sequence by analyzing stylistic changes in artifacts over time. The method relies on the principle that specific designs or types of objects, like pottery, emerge, reach peak popularity, and then gradually disappear. By comparing the relative proportions of these styles across different contexts, researchers can establish a temporal order. This allows for the reconstruction of cultural sequences even in the absence of absolute calendar dates.

90. (A) Exploration locates and maps sites non-invasively, whereas excavation uncovers stratified remains invasively.

Archaeological investigation is divided into two primary stages: exploration and excavation. Exploration involves non-invasive methods, such as surface surveys and remote sensing, to locate and map sites within a landscape without disturbing the soil. Excavation is an invasive and destructive process that involves digging into the earth to uncover buried features and artifacts in their original stratigraphic context. While exploration provides a broad regional overview, excavation offers detailed, fine-grained information about the chronological development and daily life of a site.

91. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

Chronometric dating methods are matched with specific materials based on their physical and chemical properties. Dendrochronology uses tree rings to date wooden artifacts. Potassium-argon analysis is used for dating ancient volcanic

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rocks. Thermoluminescence provides dates for fired ceramics or pottery by measuring trapped electrons. Radiocarbon dating is applied to organic remains like charcoal by measuring the decay of carbon isotopes. These various techniques collectively allow archaeologists to establish absolute timelines for a wide range of materials across different historical periods.

92. (B) Processual (New) Archaeology

The application of sociological and anthropological models became a central feature of the Processual or New Archaeology movement in the nineteen sixties. Processualists sought to make archaeology more scientific by using theoretical frameworks from the social sciences to explain human behavior and cultural change. They viewed culture as an adaptive system and used models to analyze social organization, subsistence strategies, and economic interactions. This approach moved the discipline beyond simple description toward a more rigorous, explanatory, and cross-cultural study of past societies.

93. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Soil analysis serves dual purposes in archaeological research by providing both temporal and functional information. The observation of soil development and stratigraphy is a foundational method for relative dating, as it reveals the sequence of depositional events at a site. Additionally, chemical analysis can identify areas of past human activity. For example, elevated phosphate levels often indicate the presence of organic waste, while other chemical signatures can point to specific activities like metalworking or animal husbandry within a settlement.

94. (D) To preserve detailed records of find contexts before destruction.

The fundamental goal of recording and documentation during an excavation is to preserve the scientific information of a site before it is permanently destroyed by digging. Because excavation is a non-repeatable process, archaeologists must create detailed three-dimensional records of the provenience and association of every find. These notes, maps, and photographs allow future researchers to reconstruct the site virtually and verify interpretations. Proper documentation ensures that the spatial relationships of artifacts and features remain available for long-term academic study.

95. (A) Post-Processual Archaeology

Post-Processual archaeology is built on the tenet that interpretation is never neutral and is always influenced by the archaeologist's own cultural and political background. This movement argues that researchers cannot be entirely objective because their modern perspectives shape how they view and describe the past. Post-processualists emphasize the importance of acknowledging these biases and advocate for multiple interpretations of the same material remains. This approach highlights the subjective nature of historical narratives and the active role of the researcher in constructing them.

96. (B) Correlating two separate geological layers based on the presence of the same extinct mammoth species fossil.

Biostratigraphy is a relative dating method that correlates the age of geological strata based on the fossils they contain. It relies on the principle that specific species existed during known time intervals. For instance, finding fossils of the same extinct mammoth species in different locations suggests that those layers were deposited during the same general period. This allow researchers to establish chronological relationships between distant sites. This biological record provides an essential temporal framework for understanding the environmental and evolutionary context of archaeological finds.

97. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Ethnography is a powerful tool for archaeological interpretation because it allows researchers to observe how living societies produce and use material culture. By studying contemporary traditional practices, archaeologists can develop analogies to explain patterns found in the ancient record. These observations provide a basis for creating testable hypotheses about the function of artifacts, settlement organization, and social behaviors. While modern groups are not identical to past ones, ethnographic studies offer essential

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insights into the range of human solutions to environmental and social challenges.

98. (A) Choosing survey units based on a formal randomizing procedure to avoid bias.

A random prospection or sampling survey involves the selection of specific units for study using a formal statistical procedure to ensure an unbiased representation of an area. Rather than surveying based on intuition or convenience, researchers use random numbers to choose coordinates. This method ensures that all parts of a landscape have an equal chance of being investigated, allowing archaeologists to make more accurate generalizations about the overall distribution of sites. Statistical sampling is a key component of rigorous, modern regional settlement analysis.

99. (C) Varve analysis

Most chronometric dating methods, such as radiocarbon, potassium-argon, and fission track, rely on the steady principle of radioactive decay or the accumulation of radiation damage over time. These techniques use atomic properties to calculate absolute ages. In contrast, varve analysis is a non-radiometric dating method. It is based on counting the annual layers of sediment deposited in glacial lakes. This method provides a yearly chronological sequence by directly observing physical geological accumulation, rather than measuring the decay of unstable isotopes in the material.

100. (D) Arrest the process of decay and stabilize the object.

The primary aim of archaeological conservation is to arrest the natural processes of decay and stabilize remains for long-term survival. This involves chemical and physical treatments to prevent further deterioration caused by environmental factors like moisture, oxygen, or biological activity. Conservation prioritizes the maintenance of an object's material and scientific integrity rather than restoring it to a brand-new appearance or increasing its market value. By stabilizing artifacts, conservators ensure that they remain available for research, education, and museum display for future generations.

101. (C) Mortimer Wheeler introduced the principles of stratigraphic excavation to the subcontinent.

The history of Indian archaeology was significantly advanced by the introduction of modern scientific standards in the mid-twentieth century. Mortimer Wheeler is credited with establishing the principles of rigorous stratigraphic excavation during his tenure as Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India. His methodology emphasized the careful recording of soil layers to determine chronological sequences. This modernized approach replaced earlier, less systematic techniques and continues to influence field practices in South Asia today, ensuring that findings are grounded in accurate stratigraphic contexts.

102. (B) (ii), (iii), and (iv)

The retrieval of archaeological data encompasses several field methods designed to find and recover physical remains. Systematic surface collection allows for the mapping of artifacts in ploughed fields, while geophysical techniques like resistivity surveys can detect buried features without digging. The most invasive method of retrieval is stratigraphic excavation, which uncovers remains in their original layers. Together, these field practices provide the primary data used for analysis. Post-fieldwork activities, such as writing reports, are essential but do not constitute the retrieval process itself.

103. (D) Systematic arrangement of artefacts in groups or types based on shared characteristics.

Typology is a fundamental analytical method in archaeology that involves the systematic arrangement of artifacts into distinct groups or types based on shared physical characteristics. These attributes typically include shape, material, and decorative style. By categorizing finds in this way, researchers can organize large amounts of data, identify cultural patterns, and track technological changes over time. Typology is also a key tool for relative dating, as it allows archaeologists to create sequences of artifact development across different historical and regional contexts.

104. (B) (ii), (iii), (i), (iv)

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An archaeological research project follows a logical chronological sequence of steps. It begins with the formulation of a specific research question or hypothesis. This is followed by fieldwork, including exploration and excavation, to retrieve data. Once the physical remains are recovered, the process moves into laboratory analysis and interpretation to answer the original question. Finally, the results are disseminated through the publication of a detailed report. This systematic workflow ensures that the research is conducted scientifically and the findings are made public.

105. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The context of an artifact is its most scientifically valuable attribute, consisting of its provenience, matrix, and association. Provenience refers to the exact three-dimensional location where an object was found. The matrix is the surrounding sediment or material, such as soil or sand, while association relates to its spatial relationship with other contemporary finds. Understanding these elements is essential for interpreting an object's age, function, and significance. Without context, an artifact is stripped of its historical meaning and becomes a simple curiosity.

106. (A) Pieces of obsidian (volcanic glass) artefacts.

Obsidian hydration dating is a chronometric technique specifically used to date artifacts made from volcanic glass. The method is based on the principle that a freshly exposed obsidian surface begins to absorb water from the environment at a predictable rate, forming a hydration layer or rim. By measuring the thickness of this rim in a laboratory, researchers can estimate the time elapsed since the stone was originally flaked or modified by human hands. This provides an absolute age for obsidian tools.

107. (D) Supplying techniques for dating, sourcing materials, and reconstructing ancient environments.

Natural sciences play a crucial role in modern archaeology by providing essential techniques for data analysis and environmental reconstruction. Physics and chemistry offer radiometric methods for absolute dating and chemical analysis for sourcing raw materials. Biological sciences like botany and zoology help identify plant and animal remains to understand ancient diets and climates. Geological principles are used to analyze stratigraphy and site formation. This interdisciplinary collaboration is necessary for moving beyond narrative history toward a rigorous, scientific understanding of past human life.

108. (B) Post-Post-Processual archaeology emphasizes a single, objective truth about the past.

Archaeological theory has evolved through diverse approaches, each with its own perspective on truth and interpretation. Traditional archaeology was primarily concerned with establishing chronologies, while Processual archaeology sought to explain human behavior using scientific laws. In contrast, Post-Processual archaeology rejects the idea of a single, objective truth. It emphasizes that interpretations are influenced by the researcher's context and highlights the importance of symbolism, individual agency, and multiple meanings. This movement advocates for multivocality, acknowledging that many valid perspectives can exist when reconstructing the past.

109. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

A central aim of modern archaeology is the reconstruction of past lifeways, going beyond the simple collection of artifacts. By systematically analyzing the full range of material remains, including tools, food waste, and settlement patterns, archaeologists can infer complex aspects of human existence. This includes understanding ancient economies, social structures, and dietary habits. By examining how different elements of material culture interact, researchers build a holistic picture of how people lived, worked, and organized their societies in various environmental and historical contexts.

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110. (D) A volcanic rock cools and solidifies, trapping Argon gas.

The potassium-argon dating method relies on a radioactive clock that is set during a specific geological event. When volcanic material is in a molten state, any existing argon gas escapes. However, once the rock cools and solidifies, the decay of potassium-forty produces argon-forty, which becomes trapped within the crystalline

structure. This moment of solidification marks the zero point for the dating clock. By measuring the ratio of potassium to argon, scientists can determine the absolute age of the volcanic deposit.

111. (A) Archaeology and History - Exclusive focus on non-literate societies.

The disciplines of archaeology and history are not defined by an exclusive focus on non-literate societies. While archaeology is essential for studying pre-literate periods, it also provides vital material evidence for historic eras with written records. Modern historical archaeology investigates periods from ancient civilizations to the recent industrial past. The two fields are complementary, as archaeology explores the physical remains of all human activity, while history analyzes documentation. Together, they provide a more complete understanding of human development regardless of the presence of writing.

112. (B) Dendrochronology

Dendrochronology is an absolute dating method based on the systematic counting and analysis of annual growth rings in trees. Because many species produce a distinct ring each year, the pattern reflects seasonal environmental conditions. By matching these unique sequences across many samples, researchers can build a master regional chronology. This allows for the precise dating of wooden structures and artifacts, often to a specific calendar year. It is one of the most accurate chronometric tools available for regions with suitable, well-preserved timber.

113. (C) (i), (iii) and (iv)

Relative dating in archaeology establishes a sequence of events without providing absolute numerical ages. Key principles include the law of superposition, which states that deeper layers are older, and the principle of association, where items in the same deposit are considered contemporary. Typological sequencing also helps order artifacts by stylistic change. Unlike these methods, the use of radioactive half-lives is the basis for chronometric or absolute dating, such as radiocarbon analysis, which provides a specific age in calendar years rather than just a sequence.

114. (A) The study of living peoples and their material culture by archaeologists to better understand the archaeological record.

Ethnoarchaeology is a specialized field where researchers study living societies and their material culture to gain insights into the past. By observing how contemporary traditional groups manufacture tools, organize their settlements, and dispose of waste, archaeologists can develop analogies to interpret ancient remains. This approach helps bridge the gap between static artifacts and the dynamic human behaviors that created them. It allows for the creation of testable hypotheses about past social organization, economic strategies, and cultural practices within a comparative framework.

115. (C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

Absolute dating methods are used to determine the timing of specific events related to different materials. Radiocarbon dating provides the time since the death of an organism. Thermoluminescence calculates when a ceramic or piece of pottery was last fired in a kiln. Potassium-argon dating is used to determine when volcanic rock was originally formed. Dendrochronology identifies the exact year a tree was cut to provide timber. Together, these chronometric techniques allow archaeologists to build precise timelines for diverse materials and archaeological contexts.

116. (D) Obtaining a deep chronological profile of a site.

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A vertical excavation, often called a sounding or test trench, is a strategy used primarily to obtain a deep chronological profile of an archaeological site. By digging down through the layered strata, researchers can observe the full sequence of human occupation from the earliest deposits at the bottom to the most recent at the top. This method is essential for establishing a site's temporal framework and tracing changes in culture over time. It provides a vertical cross-section of history within a limited area.

117. (C) An archaeologist's subjective feelings about the past.

Archaeological data consists of objective, material evidence recovered from the field that can be

systematically analyzed. This includes artifacts like stone tools, ecofacts like ancient pollen grains, and features like post-holes from decayed structures. These physical remains provide the empirical basis for scientific research. In contrast, an archaeologist's subjective feelings or personal emotions are not considered data. While interpretations can be influenced by theoretical perspectives, the data itself must be observable and verifiable physical evidence derived from the archaeological record for scientific study.

118. (B) The 'zeroing' mechanism for OSL is exposure to sunlight, while for TL it is exposure to heat.

The primary difference between thermoluminescence and optically stimulated luminescence dating lies in the mechanism that resets the radioactive clock. TL dating is zeroed when a crystalline material, such as pottery, is heated to a high temperature, releasing stored electrons. OSL dating is zeroed when mineral grains, like sand, are exposed to sunlight during transport. Both methods then measure the accumulation of trapped electrons from natural radiation after burial. This allows for absolute dating of either fired artifacts or wind-blown geological sediments.

119. (D) An archaeological report is a form of text that reflects the biases and theoretical stance of its author.

From a Post-Processual perspective, an archaeological report is not viewed as a purely objective record but as a text influenced by the researcher's context. This school of thought emphasizes that the choice of data and the resulting narrative reflect the author's theoretical stance, cultural background, and inherent biases. Rather than being a simple catalog of finds, the report is an active construction of the past. Post-processualists advocate for acknowledging these influences, highlighting that multiple interpretations of the same archaeological data are possible.

120. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Fluorine analysis is strictly a relative dating method for bones because the rate of absorption depends on local groundwater conditions. Bones buried in fluorine-rich soil will accumulate the element faster than those in low-fluorine areas. Because environmental factors are inconsistent globally, it is impossible to create a universal chronometric scale for this method. It is only valid for comparing bones within the same geochemical environment, allowing researchers to determine which remains are older relative to others found at the same site.

121. (C) Field survey or prospection

Field survey, or prospection, is the systematic process of walking across a landscape in a structured manner to find and record archaeological remains. This method allows researchers to identify surface scatters of artifacts and visible features without conducting invasive excavation. By mapping the distribution of these remains, archaeologists can reconstruct regional settlement patterns and understand how past populations utilized their environment. Systematic surveys are essential for locating new sites and assessing the archaeological potential of a large area for future scientific research.

122. (A) Cosmogenic nuclides dating

Cosmogenic nuclides dating is a chronometric method that measures the exposure of rock surfaces to high-energy cosmic radiation from space. When rocks are at the surface, these particles interact with minerals to produce specific isotopes at a known, predictable rate. By measuring the concentration of these nuclides in a laboratory, researchers can calculate exactly how long the surface has been exposed. This technique is particularly valuable for dating geological landforms, glacial retreats, and the formation of ancient archaeological rock features and surfaces.

123. (D) Defining cultural groups in time and space.

The culture-historical approach to archaeology is primarily concerned with identifying and defining past cultural groups based on their material remains. This perspective focuses on creating descriptive chronologies and mapping the spatial distribution of these groups across different regions. By cataloging stylistic changes in artifacts, culture-historians aim to reconstruct the historical sequence of who lived where and when. While this approach provided a foundational framework for the discipline, it

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often prioritized description and classification over explaining the underlying social and environmental processes.

124. (C) (i), (ii), and (iii)

The history of archaeology has seen a significant intellectual evolution. Early work was often dominated by antiquarianism, which focused on the collection of ancient curiosities. The development of the three-age system provided a vital chronological framework for organizing prehistory into Stone, Bronze, and Iron periods. In the nineteen sixties, Processual archaeology emerged as a scientific reaction against descriptive culture-history, emphasizing explanation. However, Post-Processualism developed later to challenge scientific objectivity, highlighting that interpretation is inherently subjective and influenced by the researcher's own cultural context.

125. (C) Identify the specific material composition and source of an artefact using scientific methods.

The aim of characterization in artifact analysis is to identify the precise material composition and geographical origin of an object using scientific methodologies. By applying techniques like chemical, mineralogical, or elemental analysis, researchers can determine where raw materials, such as stone or clay, were originally sourced. This information is essential for reconstructing ancient trade networks, exchange patterns, and technological processes. Characterization allows archaeologists to understand the economic connections and resource management strategies of past societies beyond simple stylistic descriptions of the objects.

126. (D) The archaeological record is an irreplaceable resource that must be conserved and protected for the future.

Stewardship is a fundamental ethical principle in archaeology which posits that the archaeological record is a finite, irreplaceable resource. Archaeologists act as temporary caretakers of this heritage, with a primary responsibility to protect and conserve it for the benefit of all humanity. This involves ensuring that artifacts and their context are properly documented and that sites are protected from looting or unregulated destruction. Stewardship also requires making the results of research accessible through publication, ensuring the preservation of knowledge for future generations.

127. (A) Typological Seriation

Typological seriation is a relative dating technique that organizes artifacts into a chronological sequence based on evolutionary changes in their stylistic attributes. Unlike absolute methods such as radiocarbon, potassium-argon, or dendrochronology, seriation does not provide an exact age in years. Instead, it determines if one assemblage is older or younger than another by analyzing the changing popularity and form of artifacts like pottery. This method allows researchers to build temporal frameworks by observing the predictable development of material culture over long periods of history.

128. (B) The process of reasoning that if two things share some properties, they may share others.

In archaeological interpretation, an analogy is a logical tool used to infer the function or meaning of ancient remains by comparing them to similar, better-known examples. This process of reasoning assumes that if two objects or behaviors share specific observable properties, they may also share other, non-observable characteristics. For instance, archaeologists often use ethnographic analogies from living societies to hypothesize how prehistoric tools were used. While analogies must be tested and used critically, they provide a vital link for reconstructing past lifeways from material data.

129. (A) (ii) - C14, (i) - Luminescence, (iii) - K/Ar

Archaeological materials require specific chronometric dating methods based on their age and composition. Radiocarbon dating is ideal for organic remains like wooden beams from recent millennia. Luminescence techniques, such as thermoluminescence, are used for crystalline materials like potsherds that were last heated during firing. Potassium-argon dating is necessary for very ancient geological layers, such as volcanic ash from millions of years ago. By selecting the appropriate method for each material type and temporal range, researchers can build an accurate, absolute chronological timeline for the past.

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130. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Artifact analysis involves a systematic two-step process to organize finds for scientific study. Categorization is the initial stage, where objects are sorted into broad, material-based classes such as pottery, stone, or bone. Classification follows as a more detailed analytical step, where specific typologies are created within these broad groups based on stylistic and morphological attributes. Together, these processes allow archaeologists to manage large collections, identify cultural patterns, and establish chronological sequences, facilitating meaningful comparisons between different sites and assemblages throughout human history.

131. (C) Paleoethnobotany

Paleoethnobotany is a specialized field focused on the analysis of plant remains recovered from archaeological sites. By studying microscopic evidence like pollen and phytoliths, or macroscopic remains like charred seeds and wood, researchers can reconstruct ancient environments and human diets. This information provides essential insights into past agricultural practices, foraging strategies, and the seasonal availability of resources. Paleoethnobotany is crucial for understanding how ancient human populations interacted with their local flora and adapted their subsistence methods to changing ecological conditions and climatic variations.

132. (D) Emphasis on the multivocality and contextuality of interpretation.

A key feature of Post-Processual archaeology is the emphasis on multivocality, which recognizes that multiple, diverse interpretations of the past can be equally valid. This approach rejects the idea of a single, objective narrative and highlights that all interpretations are influenced by the researcher's context and background. Post-processualists focus on the symbolic meanings, ideologies, and agency of past individuals. By considering various perspectives, including those of descendant communities, this movement seeks a more nuanced and contextual understanding of the human past and its material culture.

133. (B) (ii), (iii), and (v)

Relative dating methods establish a chronological sequence of events without providing absolute numerical ages in years. Cultural stratigraphy uses the law of superposition to order deposits, while biostratigraphy correlates the age of layers based on fossil content. Chemical tests like fluorine, nitrogen, and phosphate analysis determine the relative contemporaneity of bones within the same site. In contrast, radiocarbon and luminescence dating are chronometric techniques that provide absolute dates. Together, these methods allow researchers to organize the past into both a sequential and a numerical time line.

134. (B) Acquiring information about a site from a distance using aerial, satellite, or geophysical techniques.

Remote sensing in archaeology refers to the use of non-invasive technologies to gather information about sites from a distance. This includes aerial photography, satellite imagery, and geophysical methods like ground-penetrating radar. These techniques allow researchers to identify buried structures, ancient field systems, and landscape patterns without disturbing the soil. Remote sensing is a vital pre-excavation tool, helping archaeologists map the extent of a site and plan targeted fieldwork. It provides a broad perspective on how past human societies organized their settlements and modified their surroundings.

135. (D) Dendrochronology

Dendrochronology is an absolute dating method based on the systematic counting and analysis of annual growth rings in trees. By matching the unique ring patterns in overlapping wood samples, researchers can build a master regional chronology that stretches back thousands of years. This sequence allows for the precise dating of wooden artifacts and structures to a specific calendar year. Dendrochronology is particularly valuable because it provides a highly accurate timeline that can also be used to calibrate other chronometric methods, such as radiocarbon dating, for enhanced precision.

136. (A) How did changes in rainfall patterns affect settlement strategies and subsistence in the Neolithic period?

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Processual archaeologists focus on explaining cultural change through the study of human interaction with the environment. They view culture as an adaptive system and seek to identify the underlying processes that drive social evolution. Research questions in this school of thought often address how ecological factors, such as climate shifts or resource availability, influenced technological development and settlement patterns. This scientific approach uses systems theory and rigorous testing to understand how past societies adapted their lifeways to overcome environmental challenges and demographic pressures over time.

137. (C) All significant archaeological work in India ceased with the departure of the British.

The history of Indian archaeology is marked by significant developments both before and after independence. Figures like Alexander Cunningham and John Marshall established the foundational surveys and uncovered the Indus Valley Civilization. Mortimer Wheeler modernized excavation methods in the nineteen forties. Contrary to the idea that research ceased with the departure of the British, Indian archaeology continued to flourish under the Archaeological Survey of India and various universities. Post-independence researchers have conducted extensive excavations, refining our understanding of prehistory, the Harappan period, and early historic eras across the subcontinent.

138. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Complete excavation of an archaeological site is generally avoided for both ethical and practical reasons. Because excavation is inherently destructive, leaving portions of a site undisturbed preserves the original stratigraphic context for future generations of researchers. Future archaeologists may possess more advanced technologies and ask different scientific questions that are currently inconceivable. By practicing partial excavation, modern researchers ensure that cultural heritage remains available for long-term study, allowing for the potential re-evaluation of findings as the discipline continues to evolve and improve its methods.

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139. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

Absolute dating techniques utilize various scientific principles to establish chronological timelines. Electron Spin Resonance measures trapped electrons in materials like tooth enamel. Obsidian hydration calculates age based on the thickness of the water-absorption layer on volcanic glass. Varve analysis provides a yearly sequence by counting annual sediment layers in glacial lakes. Fission track dating relies on the density of damage trails left by the spontaneous decay of uranium isotopes in minerals. These diverse methods allow archaeologists to accurately date a wide range of geological and biological samples from antiquity.

140. (B) A natural object moved from its context by human agency but not modified.

A manuport is a specific type of archaeological data defined as a natural object that has been moved from its original geological context by human agency but remains unmodified. Examples include stones or shells found in locations where they do not occur naturally, such as an unusual river pebble within a habitation site. While they lack intentional shaping, manuports provide valuable evidence of human mobility, transportation, and selection behavior. Identifying these objects is essential for reconstructing the movement of past populations and their interaction with the surrounding natural environment.

141. (C) Test hypotheses about how artefacts were made or used.

Experimental replication is a methodology used in archaeology to test scientific hypotheses about the manufacture and function of ancient artifacts. By reproducing tools and technologies using authentic materials and techniques, researchers can gain practical insights into the physical constraints and skills required by past artisans. These experiments allow for the observation of wear patterns and production efficiency, which are then compared with original archaeological remains. This experimental approach provides a rigorous way to move beyond speculation and develop evidence-based interpretations of ancient technological systems.

142. (D) Geoarchaeology

Geoarchaeology is an interdisciplinary field that applies the principles and techniques of the earth sciences to archaeological research. It focuses on the study of soil stratigraphy, sediments, and landforms to understand the geological context of human occupation. By analyzing how sites are formed and affected by environmental processes like erosion and sedimentation, geoarchaeologists can reconstruct past landscapes and climates. This information is essential for distinguishing between human-made deposits and natural transformations, providing a comprehensive understanding of the physical environment in which ancient societies lived and interacted.

143. (A) Using Elman Service's model of band, tribe, chiefdom, and state to interpret the scale of social organization at a settlement.

The application of anthropological models in archaeology allows researchers to interpret complex social structures from material remains. For example, using established evolutionary models like the sequence from bands to states provides a framework for analyzing the scale of social organization and political complexity at a settlement. These models offer testable hypotheses about kinship, leadership, and social hierarchy. By bridging the gap between static artifacts and dynamic human behavior, this interdisciplinary approach enables a more sophisticated understanding of how ancient societies were organized and how they evolved over time.

144. (B) (ii), (iii), and (v)

Chronometric dating methods are techniques that provide an absolute age for archaeological materials expressed in calendar years. Examples include potassium-argon dating for ancient geological layers, fission track dating for minerals, and luminescence methods for ceramics or sediments. These techniques use physical and chemical properties to calculate specific numerical dates. In contrast, methods like biostratigraphy and soil analysis are primarily used for relative dating, establishing a sequence of events rather than a fixed time scale. Together, these scientific tools allow researchers to build precise chronological frameworks for the human past.

145. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The scope of archaeology is comprehensive, encompassing the entire span of the human past from the earliest hominins to the recent historic era. While foundational to the study of prehistory, the discipline also plays a vital role in investigating historical periods with written records. Modern archaeology includes specialized fields such as classical, medieval, and industrial archaeology, and even the study of contemporary material culture. This broad temporal and geographical reach allows researchers to use physical remains to explore all aspects of human social, economic, and technological development throughout history.

146. (A) Its ability to conduct an electrical current.

A resistivity meter is a geophysical tool used in non-invasive archaeological exploration to detect buried features. It works by measuring the soil's ability to conduct an electrical current, which is inversely proportional to its resistance. Subsurface anomalies like stone walls or compacted floors typically have higher resistance because they are drier and denser than the surrounding earth. Conversely, moisture-rich features like buried ditches or pits show lower resistance. By mapping these variations, archaeologists can identify the location and extent of buried structures without disturbing the original stratigraphic layers.

147. (C) The moment an organism dies and ceases to exchange carbon with the atmosphere.

The zeroing event in radiocarbon dating is the moment an organism dies and its biological processes stop. While alive, plants and animals maintain a constant ratio of the radioactive isotope carbon-fourteen by exchanging it with the atmosphere. After death, this exchange ceases, and the trapped carbon-fourteen begins to decay at a predictable, steady rate. By measuring the remaining amount of this isotope in a sample like charcoal or bone, scientists can calculate the absolute time elapsed since the organism's death, providing a chronometric date.

148. (D) Processual Archaeology

Processual archaeology, which emerged in the nineteen sixties, is also widely known as the New Archaeology. This movement sought to

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transform the discipline from a descriptive, culture-historical field into a more rigorous and explanatory science. It emphasized the use of the scientific method, systems theory, and the formulation of general laws of human behavior. By viewing culture as an adaptive system, Processualists aimed to explain the underlying causes of social and technological change. This shift significantly modernized archaeological research, introducing more objective and multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of antiquity.

149. (C) Developing interpretive frameworks for past societies.

Archaeology maintains a close relationship with social sciences like sociology and anthropology to develop robust interpretive frameworks for understanding past human behavior. These disciplines provide theoretical models regarding social organization, kinship, power structures, and economic systems. By applying these theories to the archaeological record, researchers can go beyond simple descriptions of artifacts to reconstruct the complex social realities of ancient communities. This interdisciplinary approach allows archaeologists to explain how past societies functioned, how they were structured, and how they adapted to changing social and environmental conditions throughout history.

150. (B) To ensure their preservation and the publication of knowledge derived from them.

The fundamental ethical obligation regarding archaeological finds is to ensure their long-term preservation and the public dissemination of the knowledge they provide. Artifacts and their context are irreplaceable scientific resources that belong to the collective heritage of humanity. Archaeologists must document their work thoroughly and ensure that results are made accessible through professional publication. This ethical framework opposes the private ownership or commercial sale of artifacts, as these actions destroy scientific information and encourage looting. Stewardship and the sharing of information are central tenets of the profession's responsibility to society.

151. (D) Dating a geological stratum because it contains fossils of an animal species known to have lived within a specific time range.

Biostratigraphy is a relative dating technique that utilizes the known temporal range of specific animal species to determine the age of geological or archaeological layers. This method relies on the principle that different fauna evolved and became extinct at known intervals. When fossils of these species are found within a particular stratum, they provide a reliable indicator of that layer's chronological position. By correlating these biological markers across different sites, researchers can establish relative temporal relationships and build a coherent sequence of environmental and cultural events throughout the past.

152. (A) Theories

Archaeological data consists of the physical remains recovered from the field that provide the primary evidence for scientific research. This includes portable artifacts made by humans, natural ecofacts like seeds or bones that offer environmental context, and fixed features such as walls or pits. These material remains are observable and verifiable. In contrast, theories are intellectual frameworks used by researchers to interpret and explain the data. While theories are essential for understanding the past, they are constructed based on the evidence and are not themselves part of the physical archaeological record.

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153. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Publication is an essential and ethical final step of any archaeological project because excavation is a fundamentally destructive and non-repeatable process. By removing artifacts and features from their original layers, the excavator permanently alters the site's physical record. Detailed publication is the only way to transform the retrieved data into permanent scientific information that can be studied by other scholars and the public. A comprehensive report ensures that the context and findings of the excavation are preserved for future research, fulfilling the archaeologist's primary responsibility of stewardship.

154. (A) A chronological sequence in years based on annual lake sediment layers.

Varve analysis is an absolute dating method that provides a precise chronological sequence by counting the annual layers of sediment, known as varves, deposited in glacial lakes. Each varve represents a single year and consists of distinct seasonal deposits formed by melting ice and subsequent calm periods. By matching sequences of these layers, researchers can build a fine-grained timeline that reflects yearly environmental changes. This technique is particularly valuable for establishing absolute dates in regions with a history of glaciation, providing a reliable record of both geological and archaeological time.

155. (D) It measures the accumulation of radiation damage in materials like tooth enamel and calcite.

Electron Spin Resonance is a chronometric dating method that measures the accumulation of radiation damage in the form of trapped electrons within crystalline materials. This technique is particularly valuable for dating samples like tooth enamel and mineral deposits that are difficult to date using other methods. The ESR signal increases at a predictable rate over time as the material is exposed to natural background radiation after burial. By measuring this signal in a laboratory, researchers can calculate the absolute age of skeletal remains and geological layers across broad temporal ranges.

156. (B) Ethnographic analogy

Ethnographic analogy is an interpretive method where archaeologists study the material culture and behavior of contemporary or recent societies to make informed inferences about the past. By observing how living groups solve problems related to subsistence, technology, and social organization, researchers can develop comparative models for interpreting ancient archaeological data. This approach helps bridge the gap between static material remains and the dynamic human activities that produced them. While analogies must be used critically and tested against evidence, they provide essential insights into the potential function and meaning of artifacts.

157. (C) Post-Processual Archaeology

Post-Processual archaeology is a theoretical approach that prioritizes the study of human agency, ideology, and the symbolic meaning of material culture. This movement developed as a critique of scientific objectivity, emphasizing that the past is reconstructed through subjective interpretations influenced by the researcher's context. Post-processualists are interested in how ancient individuals used objects to express identity, status, and power. By focusing on the unique cultural meanings within specific contexts rather than universal laws, this school of thought seeks a more nuanced and human-centered understanding of past social and political life.

158. (D) Typological seriation of surface pottery

Subsurface investigation in archaeology involves techniques specifically designed to detect or map buried remains without invasive digging. Geophysical methods like resistivity surveys, ground-penetrating radar, and magnetometry measure physical properties of the soil to reveal underground structures. These non-invasive tools are used to plan excavations effectively. In contrast, the typological seriation of surface pottery is a relative dating method applied to artifacts already visible on the ground. While it helps establish the chronological sequence of a site, it does not involve investigating the hidden features located beneath the modern surface.

159. (A) (i), (ii), and (iii)

Modern archaeology utilizes diverse dating methods to build accurate chronologies. Dendrochronology provides precise absolute dates in calendar years using tree rings, while radiocarbon dating offers a probable age range for organic samples. Stratigraphy is a foundational relative dating method that orders events based on the vertical sequence of layers. However, potassium-argon dating is only suitable for very ancient geological contexts, such as volcanic deposits from millions of years ago, and is not applicable to recent historical sites. Together, these methods allow researchers to establish sequential and numerical timelines for antiquity.

160. (B) An antiquarian law for the protection of cultural heritage.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act in India is a significant

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antiquarian law designed to protect the nation's cultural heritage. This legal framework provides for the preservation of ancient monuments and archaeological sites of national importance. It regulates excavations and prevents the unauthorized destruction or illegal trade of historical artifacts. By establishing state stewardship and setting standards for conservation and management, the AMASR Act ensures that India's rich archaeological record is protected for scientific research, education, and public benefit, preserving it for future generations.

161. (B) Experimental replication

Experimental replication is a specialized methodology where archaeologists attempt to reproduce ancient artifacts or technologies using authentic materials and techniques. By personally recreating objects like prehistoric stone axes, researchers can gain a practical understanding of the skills, time, and labor required for their manufacture. These experiments allow for the observation of production waste and use-wear patterns, which are then compared to original archaeological finds. This experimental approach provides a rigorous, empirical way to test hypotheses about past technology, craftsmanship, and the functional capabilities of ancient human tools and structures.

162. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

The development of Indian archaeology has been significantly shaped by several key figures. Alexander Cunningham, as the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India, conducted extensive foundational surveys. John Marshall oversaw the major excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, revealing the Indus Valley Civilization. Mortimer Wheeler introduced rigorous scientific standards through stratigraphic excavation methods in the mid-twentieth century. James Prinsep made a crucial linguistic contribution by deciphering the ancient Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts. These individuals together established the professional and scientific framework for the modern study of India's past.

163. (C) Objects found in the same, sealed archaeological deposit are likely from the same time period.

The principle of association is a fundamental concept in relative dating which states that objects found within the same, undisturbed archaeological layer were likely deposited at the same time. This suggests that the artifacts and features in a single context are contemporary and relate to the same period of human activity. By analyzing these associations, archaeologists can reconstruct past lifeways and cultural patterns. This principle allows researchers to date unknown artifacts by their proximity to objects with a known age, providing a coherent temporal framework for the entire assemblage.

164. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Fluorine, nitrogen, and phosphate analysis are chemical techniques used for relative dating of skeletal remains found within a single archaeological deposit. These methods measure the gradual changes in bone composition after burial, such as the absorption of fluorine from groundwater or the loss of nitrogen from decaying collagen. Because these processes depend on local soil conditions, they cannot provide a universal absolute date in calendar years. However, they are highly effective for determining if multiple bones buried at the same site were deposited contemporary to one another or at different times.

165. (C) The time it takes for half of the atoms of the isotope in a sample to decay.

The concept of half-life is the fundamental principle used in radiometric dating methods to calculate absolute ages. It represents the specific, constant amount of time required for fifty percent of the radioactive isotopes in a sample to decay into a stable daughter product. For example, the half-life of carbon-fourteen is approximately five thousand seven hundred and thirty years. By measuring the remaining ratio of the isotope in a sample, scientists can determine exactly how many half-lives have passed, providing a precise chronometric date for biological or geological remains.

166. (B) Excavation

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Excavation is uniquely distinguished as an inherently destructive and non-repeatable method of archaeological data retrieval. To uncover buried remains and observe their stratigraphic context, archaeologists must physically remove the layers of soil and artifacts. This process permanently alters and destroys the site's original spatial arrangement. Consequently, thorough recording and documentation are essential ethical obligations to preserve the scientific information retrieved. Other methods like remote sensing, surface surveys, and resistivity surveys are non-invasive and do not destroy the physical record of the past, allowing for repeated investigations.

167. (D) Cultural stratigraphy

Chronometric dating methods provide an absolute age for archaeological materials expressed in calendar years. Techniques such as radiocarbon dating, luminescence, and electron spin resonance utilize physical and chemical properties to calculate specific numerical dates. These methods provide a fixed timeline for the human past. In contrast, cultural stratigraphy is a relative dating method based on the law of superposition. It establishes the sequential order of events by observing the vertical arrangement of layers, determining which is older or younger without provide an actual age in years.

168. (A) Seriation

Seriation is a relative dating technique in archaeology that organizes artifacts into a chronological sequence based on changes in their stylistic popularity over time. This method is a form of typology that assumes object styles follow a predictable evolutionary pattern of emergence, peak use, and eventual decline. By comparing the relative frequencies of these types across different assemblages, researchers can determine the temporal order of sites or deposits. Seriation is particularly useful for ceramic analysis, allowing archaeologists to build coherent cultural sequences even when absolute calendar dates are unavailable.

169. (C) To make the data and interpretations available to other researchers and the public.

The primary aim of publishing an archaeological report is to ensure that the findings and scientific interpretations from a project are made available to the wider research community and the public. Because excavation is an inherently destructive process, the final report serves as the permanent record of the site's original context. Disseminating this information allows for scientific scrutiny, comparative study, and the preservation of cultural knowledge. Ethical stewardship requires that the results of archaeological research are shared to contribute to our collective understanding of the human past.

170. (A) A deposit of charred wheat seeds.

An ecofact is a natural object found in an archaeological context that holds cultural significance but has not been modified by human action. Charred wheat seeds are a classic example, as they provide primary evidence of past diets, agricultural practices, and environmental conditions. Unlike artifacts made by humans, ecofacts reflect the ecological surroundings and natural resources utilized by ancient populations. These organic remains are essential for reconstructing the subsistence strategies and landscape interactions of past societies, providing a holistic view of human adaptation and daily life throughout antiquity.

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171. (A) (i), (ii), and (iv)

Processual archaeology, also known as New Archaeology, is characterized by several core scientific tenets. It emphasizes the use of the scientific method and objectivity to achieve a more rigorous understanding of the past. This approach views culture as an adaptive system used by humans to respond to environmental and social challenges. Furthermore, it focuses on explaining underlying cultural processes rather than providing simple historical descriptions. Processualism prioritizes the study of systems and functional relationships over subjective symbolism, aiming to identify general laws of human behavior through material remains.

172. (B) An interpretive framework in processual archaeology.

The use of sociological models, such as world-systems theory, represents an interpretive framework characteristic of Processual archaeology. This movement prioritizes the use of multi-disciplinary theories to explain complex

social, economic, and political interactions in the past. By applying models that analyze relationships between different regions, researchers can investigate how exchange networks and social hierarchies evolved. This systemic approach allows archaeologists to move beyond simple description to understand the underlying causes of cultural change and the functioning of ancient societies within a broader, scientific, and explanatory context.

173. (C) It requires a well-preserved piece of timber or charcoal with a sufficient number of rings that can be matched to a regional master sequence.

A major limitation of dendrochronology is the specific requirement for high-quality, well-preserved wooden samples with a sufficient number of identifiable annual rings. To obtain an absolute date, these rings must be cross-matched with an established regional master sequence. If the wood is too small, severely decayed, or belongs to a species that does not produce distinct annual rings, the method cannot be applied. Additionally, dendrochronology is restricted to regions where extensive master chronologies have been painstakingly constructed over decades of scientific research across multiple sites.

174. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

In an undisturbed archaeological context, the law of superposition is the fundamental principle used to establish a relative chronological sequence. This law states that in any vertical sequence of stratigraphic layers, each layer is older than the one above it. Therefore, if a coin from the Ashokan period is found in a layer situated above a layer containing a Harappan seal, the Ashokan context is definitively younger. Stratigraphy provides a reliable scientific method for ordering events and tracing cultural changes over long periods of human history.

175. (A) The sum total of material remains and their contexts that have survived from the past.

The archaeological record is the complete sum of material remains and their original spatial and environmental contexts that have survived into the present. This includes all artifacts, features, ecofacts, and soil deposits produced by past human activity. The record is fragmentary and finite, representing a physical archive of human history and prehistory. Archaeologists analyze this material evidence systematically to reconstruct ancient lifeways and explain cultural change. Understanding the processes that create and preserve this record is essential for interpreting the human past accurately and scientifically.

176. (B) Chemistry or Physics (Materials Science)

Analyzing the chemical composition of a bronze sword requires the application of materials science, specifically chemistry and physics. Techniques such as X-ray fluorescence or mass spectrometry allow researchers to identify the exact alloy proportions and trace elements present in the metal. This scientific data is essential for determining the technological level of ancient metallurgists and potentially sourcing the original ore. By understanding the elemental makeup of artifacts, archaeologists can reconstruct ancient trade networks and technological developments, providing a rigorous, evidence-based view of past economic and social interactions.

177. (B) Careful excavation within a grid system, paying close attention to stratigraphy revealed in the balks (sections).

The Wheeler-Kenyon method of excavation is characterized by its emphasis on careful stratigraphic control through the use of a grid system. This technique involves excavating square units separated by narrow walls of unexcavated earth known as balks. These balks preserve the vertical soil sections, allowing archaeologists to observe and record the full sequence of stratigraphic layers throughout the excavation. This method ensures that the precise vertical and horizontal provenience of all finds is maintained, providing a rigorous and scientific record of the site's chronological development and occupation.

178. (A) Random uses a formal statistical method for choosing survey units, while systematic aims for uniform coverage.

Archaeological prospection strategies differ in their approach to regional coverage and bias. Random sampling uses formal statistical methods to select survey units, ensuring that every part of the landscape has an equal chance of being studied. This provides a representative

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and unbiased overview of the area. Systematic prospection aims for uniform coverage by surveying the entire area using a standardized grid or transects. While both are structured, random sampling is used to make statistical generalizations, whereas systematic survey provides a comprehensive map of all visible remains within the area.

179. (C) Understanding how the burial reflects identity, status, and the symbolic beliefs of the community.

A Post-Processual archaeologist analyzing a burial would prioritize understanding the symbolic and social meanings of the context. This school of thought emphasizes that material culture is used by individuals to express identity, status, and complex ideologies. Rather than seeing the burial as a simple data point for environmental adaptation, post-processualists focus on the agency of the people involved and the cultural significance of the grave goods and rituals. This approach seeks to reconstruct the specific social realities and subjective beliefs of past communities within their unique historical context.

180. (D) Older than 100,000 years, extending to billions of years.

Potassium-argon dating is an absolute chronometric method most effective for dating ancient geological contexts and early human ancestors. Because potassium-forty has a very long half-life of over one billion years, the technique is suitable for dating volcanic deposits ranging from one hundred thousand years to several billion years old. It is essential for providing a temporal framework for the earliest periods of hominin evolution. However, due to the slow decay rate, it is generally not applicable for dating recent historical sites or materials from the late Pleistocene and Holocene.

181. (B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

Archaeology is a multi-dimensional discipline defined by its scope, aims, and intellectual history. The scope refers to the geographical and temporal extent of the field, covering the entire human past. The aim is the scientific reconstruction of ancient lifeways and the explanation of cultural change. Ethical principles govern the moral conduct of practitioners, prioritizing the stewardship of heritage. The history of archaeology tracks the chronological and intellectual growth of the discipline from antiquarianism to modern science. Together, these elements provide a comprehensive framework for the systematic study of human history.

182. (B) Fission track dating

Relative dating methods establish a chronological sequence of events by determining if one object is older than another based on its position or style. Techniques like typology, biostratigraphy, and soil analysis are all used to order the past without providing absolute ages. In contrast, fission track dating is an absolute chronometric method. It measures the density of radiation damage in minerals like zircon to provide a specific numerical age in calendar years. This scientific technique uses radioactive decay processes to calculate the exact time since the material was last heated.

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183. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The core objective of archaeological conservation is the stabilization of artifacts and structures to prevent further deterioration while preserving their authentic historical material. Ethical conservation prioritizes the maintenance of scientific integrity over aesthetic beauty. While cleaning and protecting objects is necessary, the goal is not to make them look brand new or pristine. Authentic wear and damage often provide essential information about an item's use and history. Conservation methods should be reversible and carefully documented, ensuring that archaeological remains are preserved for future research and public education without misleading reconstructions.

184. (A) An absolute chronology in calendar years for the duration of the lake's deposition.

Varve analysis is an absolute dating method that provides a yearly chronology by counting the annual sediment layers deposited in glacial lakes. Each varve represents a single year, consisting of distinct seasonal layers that reflect changes in meltwater and sedimentation. By analyzing these vertical sequences, researchers can build a precise timeline of geological and environmental events. This technique provides a fine-grained record

of climatic variations and provides a reliable numerical timeline for archaeological sites located within these glacial contexts, stretching back thousands of years with high accuracy.

185. (C) Creating detailed notes, drawings, maps, and photographs of all excavated features and find locations.

Recording and documentation are the most critical stages of archaeological fieldwork because excavation is a destructive process. Archaeologists must create a meticulous three-dimensional record of the site before it is altered. This includes detailed notes, scaled drawings, stratigraphic maps, and photographs of every artifact and feature in its original context. These records serve as the permanent scientific archive of the site's provenience and association. Proper documentation allows future researchers to virtually reconstruct the excavation, verify interpretations, and re-examine the data as new scientific techniques and questions emerge.

186. (D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Modern archaeology relies heavily on the integration of various natural sciences to provide a rigorous, multi-dimensional understanding of the past. Physics provides the foundation for radiometric dating and geophysical surveys. Botany and zoology are essential for reconstructing ancient diets and environmental conditions through the analysis of plant and animal remains. Geology offers the principles for understanding stratigraphy and site formation processes. Chemistry provides the methodologies needed to analyze artifact composition and source material. This interdisciplinary collaboration ensures that archaeological interpretations are grounded in objective, scientific, and empirical data.

187. (D) When the pot was fired in a kiln.

Thermoluminescence dating is an absolute chronometric method that determines the time elapsed since a crystalline material was last exposed to intense heat. When a ceramic pot is fired in a kiln, the high temperatures release all previously trapped electrons, effectively resetting the radioactive clock to zero. After firing, the material begins to accumulate new electrons from natural background radiation at a steady rate. By measuring the light emitted when the sample is reheated in a laboratory, researchers can calculate the exact age of the pottery based on its original manufacture.

188. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The history of archaeology demonstrates a significant shift from the early phase of antiquarianism to a modern, scientific discipline. Early antiquarians were primarily collectors interested in ancient curiosities and artifacts for their aesthetic or monetary value. As the field evolved, practitioners introduced systematic methodologies, including stratigraphic excavation and rigorous recording. Modern archaeology focuses on answering specific research questions and explaining cultural processes through the analysis of material remains in their context. This transition reflects the discipline's development into a systematic study of the human past grounded in scientific principles.

189. (C) Post-Processual Archaeology

Questions regarding the social and political implications of interpretation are central to Post-Processual archaeology. This school of thought emphasizes that archaeological research is not neutral but is influenced by the contemporary context of the researcher. Post-processualists argue that how we reconstruct the past has consequences for modern identities and power dynamics. By critically examining the biases inherent in narratives, this movement seeks to acknowledge multiple perspectives, including those of descendant communities. This reflexive approach highlights the ethical and political responsibilities of archaeologists in the creation and dissemination of historical knowledge.

190. (D) A detailed description of the methods used in data retrieval and analysis.

A key component of a professional archaeological report is a detailed and systematic description of the methodologies used during data retrieval and analysis. This includes information on excavation strategies, recording techniques, and the laboratory methods applied to finds. Providing this level of detail is essential for maintaining scientific transparency and allowing other researchers to evaluate the findings

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and interpretations. The report ensures that the primary evidence from the excavation is permanently documented, fulfilling the archaeologist's ethical obligation to preserve knowledge and contribute to the collective understanding of the past.

191. (A) Radiocarbon dating

Relative dating methods are designed to establish the sequential order of events without assigning an exact numerical age in years. Techniques like stratigraphy, seriation, and fluorine analysis allow archaeologists to determine if one deposit or artifact is older or younger than another based on its position or chemical changes. In contrast, radiocarbon dating is a chronometric method. It utilizes the steady radioactive decay of carbon isotopes to provide an absolute date expressed in calendar years. This absolute timeline is essential for placing archaeological remains within a fixed historical framework.

192. (B) To stabilize materials and prevent further decay.

The main purpose of archaeological conservation is the stabilization of material remains to prevent further decay and ensure their long-term survival. Artifacts and structures recovered from the field are often fragile and prone to deterioration when exposed to the atmosphere. Conservators use physical and chemical treatments to arrest these processes while maintaining the object's scientific and historical integrity. Conservation avoids deceptive reconstructions and prioritizes the preservation of authentic material. By stabilizing remains, conservators ensure that cultural heritage continues to be available for scientific study, education, and public display for future generations.

193. (B) Palynology

Palynology is the specialized scientific study of ancient pollen grains and spores recovered from archaeological and geological contexts. These microscopic remains are highly resistant to decay and provide primary evidence of past vegetation and climate. By analyzing the changing types and proportions of pollen in soil samples over time, researchers can reconstruct ancient landscapes and environmental shifts. This information is essential for understanding how past human societies adapted their subsistence strategies and settlements to changing ecological conditions. Palynology provides a critical environmental framework for interpreting the human past throughout antiquity.

194. (A) The processual phase.

The shift from a descriptive to an explanatory framework in archaeology is the hallmark of the Processual phase, also known as New Archaeology. This movement, emerging in the nineteen sixties, introduced systems theory and cultural ecology to the discipline. Processualists argued that archaeology should move beyond cataloging historical sequences to explain the underlying causes of cultural change. By viewing culture as an adaptive system, they sought to identify general laws of human behavior through the scientific analysis of material remains. This approach emphasized objectivity and the use of rigorous research methodologies.

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195. (C) A fragment of a burnt wooden post.

Radiocarbon dating is a chronometric method specifically designed for dating organic materials that were once part of a living organism. A fragment of a burnt wooden post is an ideal sample because it contains carbon that was absorbed from the atmosphere during the tree's life. After death, the radioactive carbon-fourteen isotope decays at a known, predictable rate. By measuring the remaining amount of this isotope, scientists can calculate the time elapsed since the organism died. This method is not applicable to inorganic materials like stone, volcanic rock, or metal ax heads.

196. (D) Relative dating through stratigraphy

The law of superposition is a fundamental principle in relative dating through stratigraphy. It states that in any undisturbed sequence of soil or rock layers, the oldest deposit is at the bottom and the layers become progressively younger toward the surface. By observing the vertical arrangement of these strata, archaeologists can establish the chronological sequence of human occupation and cultural change at a site. This law provides the basic temporal framework necessary for understanding the development of past societies and the relative ages of the artifacts and features they left behind.

197. (C) Remote Sensing (Satellite) - Large scale features like ancient canals or roads

Satellite remote sensing is a powerful non-invasive tool in archaeology used to identify large-scale landscape features such as ancient roads, canals, or irrigation systems. By recording electromagnetic radiation from the earth's surface, these sensors can detect subtle anomalies that are invisible from the ground. This provides a broad regional perspective on how past human societies organized their settlements and modified their environment. Unlike geophysical methods like resistivity or magnetometry which focus on small-scale buried features, satellite imagery allows researchers to map extensive archaeological patterns and plan targeted fieldwork over large geographical areas.

198. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Ethnographic analogy is a vital interpretive framework in archaeology that uses observations of contemporary or recent societies to understand the past. This approach is based on the assumption that there are fundamental similarities in human behavior and material culture across time. By studying how living traditional groups solve problems related to technology and social organization, researchers can develop comparative models for ancient remains. While analogies must be used cautiously and tested against material evidence, they provide essential insights into the potential function, meaning, and cultural context of artifacts found in the archaeological record.

199. (D) An artefact is made or modified by humans, while an ecofact is a natural object of cultural relevance.

In archaeology, data is distinguished by its origin and the degree of human intervention. An artifact is a portable object that has been intentionally made or modified by humans, such as a stone tool or ceramic vessel. In contrast, an ecofact is a natural object found at a site that has cultural significance but has not been modified, such as animal bones or seeds. While artifacts reveal technological skills and cultural styles, ecofacts provide primary evidence of past environments and human diets. Together, they offer a holistic understanding of how ancient societies lived and interacted.

200. (A) Typological seriation

Typological seriation is a relative dating technique used to arrange assemblages into a chronological sequence based on changes in the frequencies of artifact styles over time. This method assumes that objects, like pottery, follow a predictable pattern of emergence, popularity, and decline. By comparing the proportions of different types across a series of closed contexts, such as graves or layers, researchers can establish their temporal order. Seriation allows for the reconstruction of cultural development even in the absence of absolute calendar dates, providing a coherent sequential framework for the material remains of past societies.

201. (C) Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)

OSL is the most appropriate chronometric method for dating sediments by determining when they were last exposed to sunlight. This technique is particularly useful for establishing the age of geological deposits containing stone tools where organic materials for radiocarbon dating are absent. Exposure to light resets the luminescence clock in mineral grains like quartz or feldspar. Once buried, the grains accumulate energy from natural radiation at a steady rate. By measuring this stored energy in a laboratory, researchers can calculate the time elapsed since burial, providing an absolute age for the sediment and its associated finds.

202. (A) It is an essential ethical and scientific obligation to document and publish all findings and interpretations.

The preparation of an archaeological report is an essential scientific and ethical obligation for all practitioners. Because excavation is an inherently destructive process that permanently removes artifacts and features from their context, the report serves as the only lasting record of the site's original state. Documenting and publishing all findings ensures that the information retrieved is preserved for future research and made available to the public. Ethical stewardship requires that the results of archaeological investigations are shared to contribute to the collective

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understanding of human history, fulfilling the researcher's responsibility to society.

203. (A) (i), (ii), and (iii)

Chronometric dating methods are scientific techniques that provide an absolute age for archaeological materials in calendar years. Examples include fission track dating for minerals, varve analysis for annual lake sediments, and electron spin resonance for tooth enamel and calcite. These methods use physical properties to calculate specific numerical dates. In contrast, biostratigraphy and typology are relative dating methods that establish the sequential order of events without providing a fixed numerical age. By using chronometric techniques, researchers can build precise timelines for geological and biological samples, placing them within a rigorous historical framework.

204. (B) The relative age of bones found within the same archaeological deposit.

Chemical analysis of fluorine, nitrogen, and phosphate in bones is a reliable relative dating technique for remains found within the same site. These tests measure the gradual absorption or loss of specific elements that occur after burial. Because these processes depend on local environmental conditions, they cannot provide a universal absolute age in years. However, they allow researchers to identify if multiple bones found in a single deposit were buried contemporary to one another or if some are later intrusive additions. This helps establish a relative sequence of burials and biological remains within a site.

205. (C) Defining past cultures as normative entities and plotting their distribution in time and space.

The traditional or culture-historical approach in archaeology focuses on identifying and defining past cultures based on their material remains. This perspective views culture as a normative entity and emphasizes the creation of descriptive chronologies. Researchers in this school of thought prioritize cataloging artifact styles to map the spatial and temporal distribution of specific groups. While this approach provided a foundational framework for the discipline, it often focused more on historical description and classification rather than explaining the underlying social and environmental processes that drive cultural change and evolution throughout human history.

206. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Modern archaeology is an interdisciplinary field that applies the principles and techniques of various sciences to understand the human past. Geology is used to analyze stratigraphy and site formation processes, providing a physical framework for findings. Botany helps identify plant remains to reconstruct past diets and environments. Physics contributes through radiometric dating and geophysical survey methods for non-invasive discovery. Anthropology provides theoretical models for interpreting ancient social structures and cultural practices. This collaboration between diverse fields ensures that archaeological interpretations are grounded in objective data and a comprehensive scientific understanding of past societies.

207. (A) A non-portable, human-made element of the site, such as a pit, wall, or hearth.

In archaeology, a feature is defined as a non-portable, human-made element of a site that is fixed in its spatial context. Examples include structures like walls, domestic features like hearths, or modifications such as pits and post-holes. Unlike artifacts, features cannot be moved without being destroyed or losing their original meaning. They provide essential evidence of how past human activities were organized and how space was utilized within a settlement. Studying the distribution and nature of features is crucial for reconstructing ancient architecture, social organization, and the daily lives of past societies.

208. (B) Processual Archaeology

The New Archaeology is another name for the Processual movement that transformed the discipline in the nineteen sixties. This school of thought advocated for a more scientific and explanatory approach to the past, moving beyond the simple description of culture-history. Processualists emphasized the use of the scientific method, systems theory, and the formulation of general laws of human behavior. By viewing culture as an adaptive system, they aimed to explain the underlying causes of cultural change through material remains. This shift modernized

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archaeological research, introducing more rigorous, objective, and theoretical frameworks for study.

209. (B) The recording of reversals and changes in the Earth's magnetic field in geological formations or fired clays.

Palaeomagnetic dating is a relative dating technique based on the principle that certain materials record the earth's magnetic orientation. When geological formations cool or clay is fired, they preserve a signature of the magnetic field's polarity and position at that moment. By comparing these signatures to a known master sequence of geomagnetic reversals and shifts, researchers can determine the chronological period of the sample. This method provides essential temporal data for geological and archaeological contexts, allowing for the correlation of sites across broad geographical areas and long periods of time.

210. (A) Treat them with dignity and respect, and consult with descendant communities where applicable.

Ethical archaeological practice requires that human remains be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. When remains are discovered, archaeologists have a professional responsibility to follow legal guidelines and consult with descendant communities who may have a stake in the treatment of their ancestors. This collaboration ensures that remains are studied or reburied in a culturally sensitive manner. Modern ethics prioritize the rights of living communities and the respectful handling of biological heritage over unscientific collection. Stewardship involves balancing scientific research with ethical obligations to humanity and the descendants of the past.

211. (C) Dividing a region into a grid and surveying each square with equal intensity.

Systematic prospection is a structured field survey method designed to ensure uniform and thorough coverage of an archaeological landscape. This approach involves dividing a region into a standardized grid or series of transects and surveying each unit with equal intensity. By using a consistent methodology, researchers can identify different types of remains, from major settlements to minor artifact scatters, without geographical bias. Systematic surveys are essential for accurately reconstructing regional settlement patterns and understanding the spatial distribution of human activity. This structure provides a reliable foundation for assessing a region's overall archaeological potential.

212. (B) (ii), (iii), and (iv)

The conservation of archaeological sites focuses on several key strategies to ensure their long-term survival and scientific integrity. Key goals include stabilizing structures against erosion and collapse and controlling vegetation growth that can damage historical remains. Additionally, conservation involves providing controlled access for visitors to prevent accidental damage while facilitating public education. These aims prioritize the preservation of authentic material rather than speculative rebuilding. By protecting sites from both natural and human threats, conservation ensures that archaeological resources remain available for future research and continue to serve as a reliable source of cultural heritage.

213. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Experimental replication is a specialized methodology where archaeologists produce and use copies of ancient tools and structures to gain insights into past life. This approach allows researchers to understand the practical challenges, skills, and materials involved in ancient manufacturing. By using these replicas in controlled settings, they can observe wear patterns and efficiency, which are then compared to original archaeological finds. This experimental process helps create testable hypotheses about past technologies and behaviors. It provides an empirical way to bridge the gap between static material remains and the dynamic human activities of antiquity.

214. (B) The length of time a rock surface has been exposed.

Cosmogenic nuclides dating is a chronometric method used to determine how long a rock surface has been exposed to high-energy cosmic radiation. When minerals are at or near the earth's surface, these particles interact with atoms to produce unique isotopes at a predictable rate. By

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measuring the concentration of these nuclides in a laboratory, researchers can calculate the absolute duration of exposure. This technique is particularly valuable for dating geological landforms, glacial retreats, and the formation of ancient archaeological rock features, providing essential temporal data for understanding landuse and landscape evolution over time.

215. (D) The legal protection of archaeological heritage from destruction, illicit trade, and unregulated excavation.

Antiquarian laws are national or international legal frameworks designed specifically for the protection of archaeological and historical heritage. These regulations aim to prevent the unauthorized destruction of sites, illegal looting, and the illicit trade of artifacts. By establishing state stewardship and setting professional standards for excavation and conservation, these laws ensure that cultural resources are managed for the public benefit. They protect the scientific and historical value of the archaeological record, ensuring that heritage remains available for future research and education while preventing the loss of irreplaceable cultural information.

216. (A) It is a direct written record of past thoughts and beliefs.

Archaeological data is characterized by its material nature, consisting of artifacts, ecofacts, and features that have survived into the present. This record is often incomplete and fragmentary, as only a portion of past material culture is preserved. Unlike historical documents, which are written records of thoughts, archaeological data requires systematic analysis and interpretation to understand past human life. The significance of any find is highly dependent on its spatial and environmental context. By studying these remains, archaeologists reconstruct lifeways and cultural change, bridging the gap between physical evidence and ancient human behavior.

217. (C) Radiocarbon (C14) Dating

Radiocarbon dating is a vital chronometric method based on the principle of radioactive decay. All living organisms maintain a constant ratio of the radioactive isotope carbon-fourteen. After death, this isotope decays into nitrogen at a predictable and steady rate, characterized by its half-life. By measuring the remaining carbon-fourteen in organic samples like charcoal or bone, scientists can calculate the absolute age of the material in calendar years. This radiometric clock provides a numerical timeline for the past fifty thousand years, making it an essential tool for establishing chronologies throughout later prehistory and history.

218. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Processual archaeologists frequently utilized concepts from cultural ecology to understand how past human societies functioned. This school of thought viewed culture primarily as an adaptive system used by humans to interact with and overcome environmental challenges. By focusing on the functional relationships between social organization, technology, and demographic factors, Processualists sought to explain cultural changes as responses to external pressures. This scientific approach used systems theory and rigorous testing to identify general laws of human behavior, moving archaeology toward an explanatory framework that prioritizes the interaction between humanity and its ecological surroundings.

219. (D) Characterization (or Sourcing)

Characterization, also known as sourcing, is the scientific process of identifying the material composition and geographical origin of an artifact's raw material. By applying analytical techniques like chemical, mineralogical, or isotopic analysis, researchers can determine the specific source, such as a particular quarry or ore deposit. This information is essential for reconstructing ancient trade networks, exchange patterns, and resource management. Characterization allows archaeologists to understand the economic connections between past societies and their technological strategies, providing a rigorous and objective view of how ancient populations acquired and distributed their materials.

220. (B) Resistivity survey

A resistivity survey is a non-invasive geophysical method used in archaeological exploration to detect buried remains without disturbing the soil. This technique involves passing an electrical

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current through the ground to measure the resistance of the soil. Buried features like stone walls or compacted surfaces typically show higher resistance, while features like ditches or pits show lower resistance. This allows researchers to create a map of subsurface structures and plan targeted excavations. Unlike trenching or test pitting, which are invasive and destructive, resistivity surveys preserve the original stratigraphic context while providing essential structural information.

221. (C) Whether archaeology should be a science or a humanity.

The debate between Processual and Post-Processual archaeology centers on the fundamental nature of the discipline and whether it should prioritize scientific objectivity or humanistic interpretation. Processualists advocate for a scientific approach that uses general laws and systems theory to explain cultural change. In contrast, Post-Processualists argue that archaeology is a humanistic field where interpretation is subjective and influenced by individual agency, ideology, and symbolism. This theoretical divide addresses whether the goal is to discover objective universal processes or to understand the contextual and symbolic meanings of past human life within its unique historical setting.

222. (B) (ii), (i), (iii)

The development of dating methods in archaeology followed a clear chronological progression. The stratigraphic concept and the three-age system were established in the nineteenth century as foundational relative dating tools. In the mid-twentieth century, the discovery of radiocarbon dating revolutionized the field by provide an absolute chronometric method for organic materials up to fifty thousand years old. Later, the potassium-argon method was developed to date very ancient geological layers from millions of years ago. This advancement in scientific techniques allowed researchers to move from simple sequential ordering to creating precise, absolute timelines for human history.

223. (A) It is material, consisting of artefacts and features whose significance depends on context.

Archaeological data is material in nature, comprising physical remains such as artifacts, features, and ecofacts that have survived from the past. The significance of these objects is not inherent but depends heavily on their spatial and environmental context, including their provenience and association with other finds. By systematically analyzing these material remains within their original layers, archaeologists can reconstruct past lifeways and explain cultural changes. Understanding the nature of this data as a physical record of human activity is essential for applying scientific methodologies to reconstruct ancient history and social organization accurately.

224. (B) The archaeologist's own background and biases can influence their interpretations.

A central tenet of post-processualism is the recognition that archaeological interpretation is never entirely objective. This school of thought emphasizes that the researcher's own cultural, political, and academic background inevitably influences how they view and interpret material remains. Post-processualists argue that rather than discovering a single, universal truth, archaeologists actively construct narratives of the past. This perspective highlights the importance of reflexivity and multivocality, acknowledging that multiple valid interpretations can exist. It emphasizes that our understanding of antiquity is a subjective process shaped by the modern context in which research is conducted.

225. (B) Thermoluminescence (TL) dating

Thermoluminescence dating is the most appropriate chronometric method for dating a three-thousand-year-old piece of pottery. This absolute technique measures the accumulated natural radiation dose in the crystalline structure of the clay since it was last heated during the firing process. Exposure to intense heat resets the TL clock to zero. By measuring the light emitted when a sample is reheated in a laboratory, researchers can calculate the time elapsed since the pot was originally manufactured. This method is essential for established chronologies for ceramic-using societies where organic remains may be unavailable for radiocarbon dating.

226. (A) (i), (ii), and (iii)

The retrieval of archaeological data encompasses the systematic field methods used to discover and recover material remains. This includes

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site discovery through exploration and remote sensing techniques, followed by data recovery through careful excavation. A crucial component of this process is the detailed recording and documentation of the context of every find, ensuring that the spatial relationships between artifacts and features are preserved. Together, these practices provide the primary physical evidence for scientific research. Subsequent activities like final interpretation and museum conservation are essential steps but do not involve the retrieval of data from the field.

227. (A) Bridge the gap between static material remains and the dynamic social behaviors that produced them.

The application of anthropological models is essential for archaeology to bridge the gap between static artifacts and the dynamic human behaviors of the past. These models provide theoretical frameworks for understanding social organization, kinship, and economic exchange. By using analogies and theories about how living societies function, archaeologists can develop testable hypotheses about the social and political realities of ancient communities. This interdisciplinary approach allows researchers to move beyond simple description to explain the underlying causes of cultural change and the complex mechanisms of human social evolution throughout the entire span of human history.

228. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The history of archaeology did not begin with modern scientific methods but evolved from an earlier phase known as antiquarianism. During the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries, antiquarians were primarily collectors interested in ancient objects for their aesthetic or monetary value, often without systematic recording or scientific context. As the discipline developed, practitioners introduced rigorous methodologies, including stratigraphy and detailed documentation, transforming it into a scientific study of the past. This evolution reflects the growth of archaeology from a pursuit of curiosities into a systematic discipline focused on reconstruct past human life through the analysis of material culture.

229. (C) Cultural Stratigraphy - A relative dating method.

Cultural stratigraphy is a foundational relative dating method based on the law of superposition. This principle establishes that in any vertical sequence of soil layers, the deeper deposits are older than those found above them. By analyzing the arrangement of these strata, archaeologists can establish a chronological sequence of human occupation without providing an absolute numerical age in years. In contrast, chronometric methods like radiocarbon dating provide absolute dates based on physical properties. Understanding the difference between these sequential and numerical timelines is essential for accurately reconstructing the historical development of ancient human societies and cultural patterns.

230. (B) To organize artefacts into categories for the study of chronology, function, and culture.

A primary goal of artifact analysis is the systematic organization of finds into meaningful categories based on their physical attributes. By grouping objects by their material, shape, and style, archaeologists can identify cultural patterns and track technological developments over time. This structured approach is essential for establishing relative chronologies through methods like seriation and for studying the function and use-wear of tools. Classification and analysis move researchers beyond simple description to a deeper understanding of the social, economic, and technological processes that shaped past human lives and cultural traditions throughout history.

231. (D) Palaeomagnetic dating

Palaeomagnetic dating is a relative dating technique that utilizes the recorded reversals and shifts in the earth's magnetic polarity over time. Certain materials, such as volcanic rocks and fired clay, preserve the orientation of the magnetic field at the moment they cooled or were heated. By comparing these magnetic signatures to a known master sequence of geomagnetic events, researchers can determine the chronological period of the sample. This method allows for the correlation of archaeological sites across broad geographical areas, providing an

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essential temporal framework for understanding both geological and cultural history over long durations.

232. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Archaeological research is guided by several theoretical frameworks, each with its own core concepts. Traditional archaeology focuses on culture history through descriptive classification. Processual archaeology views culture as an adaptive system and emphasizes scientific explanation and systems theory. Post-Processualism highlights contextual meaning, symbolism, and individual agency. Ethnography involves using living cultures to develop models for interpreting the past. Together, these diverse approaches provide a comprehensive toolkit for reconstructing lifeways and explaining the complex mechanisms of cultural change. They allow researchers to study antiquity from multiple scientific, social, and humanistic perspectives.

233. (C) Up to 50,000 years.

Radiocarbon dating is a crucial chronometric method for determining the age of organic materials, but it has a specific temporal limit. Due to the relatively short half-life of the carbon-fourteen isotope, which is approximately five thousand seven hundred and thirty years, the remaining radioactive carbon becomes too small to measure accurately after about fifty thousand years. Consequently, this method is highly effective for dating materials from later prehistory and the historic era but is not suitable for older Paleolithic remains or ancient geological layers. For deeper time, researchers must use other radiometric techniques like potassium-argon dating.

234. (A) The range of topics, time periods, and geographical areas that the discipline covers.

The scope of archaeology refers to the comprehensive range of topics, time periods, and geographical areas that the discipline investigates. It covers the entire human past, from the earliest hominin evolution to the study of contemporary material culture. Geographically, it encompasses all parts of the world where humans have lived and interacted with their environment. The scope also includes specialized fields like maritime, classical, and industrial archaeology. This broad temporal and spatial reach allows researchers to use physical remains to explore all aspects of human social, economic, and technological development throughout history.

235. (D) The last time the sand grain was exposed to sunlight before burial.

The zeroing event for Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating is the moment mineral grains, like sand, were last exposed to sunlight during their transport. Exposure to light releases all previously trapped electrons, effectively resetting the luminescence clock to zero. Once the grain is buried and shielded from light, it begins to accumulate new energy from natural background radiation at a steady rate. By measuring this stored energy in a laboratory, researchers can calculate the exact time elapsed since the burial event. This allows for the absolute dating of wind-blown or water-borne sediments and their associated archaeological finds.

236. (B) Unsystematic treasure hunting and trenching.

The introduction of systematic, stratigraphic excavation methods by figures like Mortimer Wheeler marked a significant shift toward professional and scientific standards in archaeology. This modern approach moved the discipline away from earlier, unsystematic treasure hunting and trenching, which often prioritized the recovery of valuable artifacts over recording their context. By emphasizing the careful observation of soil layers and the precise documentation of every find's provenience, Wheeler modernized field practices. This scientific rigor ensured that excavations became a reliable source of stratigraphic data, allowing for the accurate reconstruction of a site's chronological and cultural history.

237. (C) Desalinating waterlogged wood to prevent cracking.

Desalinating waterlogged wood is a classic example of an archaeological conservation method designed to stabilize fragile remains. When organic materials like wood are recovered from wet environments, they are often saturated with salts and water that can cause rapid decay or structural collapse when exposed to air. Conservation treatments involve slowly removing these salts and replacing water with

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stable substances like polyethylene glycol to prevent cracking and shrinkage. These procedures prioritize the maintenance of an object's material and scientific integrity, ensuring that artifacts remain available for long-term study and museum display while protecting them from environmental deterioration.

238. (A) (i), (ii), and (iii)

Archaeological exploration encompasses various non-invasive methods used to find and map sites without conducted digging. Systematic field walking involves a structured search for surface artifacts to identify potential habitation areas. Remote sensing techniques, such as satellite imagery, allow researchers to detect large-scale landscape patterns from a distance. Geophysical tools like resistivity surveys measure soil properties to reveal buried structures. These exploration methods are designed to locate remains and plan targeted research. In contrast, horizontal excavation is an invasive and destructive field technique that involves removing soil layers to uncover the physical structure of a settlement.

239. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Modern archaeological ethics emphasize the imperative to work collaboratively with descendant communities. This responsibility is based on the principle that people have a right to be involved in the study and stewardship of their own cultural heritage. Engaging with these communities ensures that research is conducted in a culturally sensitive manner and that multiple perspectives are considered. This collaboration fosters accountability and respect for the rights of living populations while enriching archaeological interpretations with traditional knowledge. Stewardship involves balancing scientific research goals with ethical obligations to the people whose history and ancestors are being studied.

240. (B) Offering theoretical models to interpret social organization from material remains.

The main contribution of social sciences like anthropology to archaeology is the provision of theoretical models needed to interpret past social organization. These disciplines offer frameworks regarding kinship, social status, power structures, and economic systems. By applying these models to physical remains, archaeologists can go beyond simple descriptions of artifacts to reconstruct the complex social realities of ancient communities. This interdisciplinary approach allows researchers to develop testable hypotheses about how past societies were structured and how they functioned. It is essential for moving toward a nuanced understanding of human behavior and cultural change throughout the past.

241. (B) The single, identifiable layer or deposit.

The fundamental unit of stratigraphy in an archaeological context is the single, identifiable layer or deposit of soil or sediment. Each layer represents a distinct episode of human activity or natural environmental event. By analyzing these individual strata, archaeologists can establish the relative chronological sequence of a site. The spatial and temporal relationship between layers is governed by the law of superposition. Understanding these units is essential for accurately recording the context of artifacts and features, providing the necessary evidence to reconstruct the developmental history of ancient human occupations and past social change.

242. (A) Biostratigraphy

Chronometric dating methods are techniques that provide an absolute age for archaeological remains expressed in calendar years. Examples include radiocarbon dating for organic materials, luminescence for ceramics, and dendrochronology for tree rings. These methods calculate specific numerical dates based on physical and chemical properties. In contrast, biostratigraphy is a relative dating technique that uses the known sequence of fossils within geological layers to establish chronological relationships. It determines if a deposit is older or younger than another without providing a fixed numerical age in years. Together, these methods allow for a complete temporal reconstruction.

243. (C) The theoretical approaches and analogical reasoning used to make sense of the data.

The section on methods of interpretation in an archaeological report discusses the theoretical frameworks and reasoning used to analyze the retrieved data. This includes explaining

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the specific archaeological schools of thought applied, such as Processual or Post-Processual approaches. It also details how analogies from living societies or experimental studies were used to infer the function and meaning of ancient remains. By discussing these methodologies, archaeologists provide a transparent account of how their interpretations were constructed. This allows other researchers to evaluate the scientific validity of the conclusions and contributes to the intellectual rigor of the research.

244. (D) How could this tool have been manufactured and what wear patterns result from use?

The primary aim of experimental archaeology is to understand the manufacturing processes and functions of ancient artifacts through practical replication. Researchers attempt to recreate tools using original materials and techniques to gain insights into the skills and labor required. By using these replicas, they can observe how specific tasks produce unique wear patterns on the tool's surface. These observations are then compared to original archaeological finds to test hypotheses about past technology. This experimental approach provides an empirical and rigorous method for move beyond speculation, providing evidence-based interpretations of the physical life of ancient human societies.

245. (B) (ii), (iii), and (v)

Modern archaeology relies heavily on the natural sciences to provide essential data for reconstructing the past. Techniques from physics and chemistry offer radiometric methods for absolute dating and scientific analysis for the characterization and sourcing of raw materials. Biological sciences like botany and zoology help identify plant and animal remains to understand ancient diets and environments. Geology provides the foundation for analyzing stratigraphy and site formation processes. While natural sciences do not provide social models, they supply the empirical evidence needed for multi-disciplinary study. This collaboration ensures that archaeological interpretations are grounded in objective and verifiable data.

246. (B) To create order, enabling comparison and the study of technology and trade.

Classification and characterization are fundamental analytical processes designed to organize large amounts of archaeological data into a manageable and scientifically useful structure. By categorizing artifacts into typologies based on shared attributes, researchers can identify cultural patterns and track technological changes over time. Characterization identifies the precise composition and origin of materials, which is essential for reconstructing ancient trade networks and exchange systems. Together, these methods allow for meaningful comparisons between different sites and regions. They provide the necessary framework for move beyond simple description to a rigorous understanding of the economic and social connections of past societies.

247. (D) The Law of Superposition

The law of superposition is a foundational principle of relative dating in archaeology and geology. It states that in any undisturbed sequence of soil or rock layers, each stratum is older than the one above it and younger than the one below. This principle allows researchers to establish the chronological sequence of human occupation and cultural change at a site by observing the vertical arrangement of deposits. By following this law, archaeologists can systematically order past events and understand how material culture and environmental conditions have evolved over long periods of history within a specific stratigraphic context.

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248. (A) Processualism seeks objective, scientific explanations, while Post-Processualism emphasizes subjective, contextual interpretations.

A key difference between Processual and Post-Processual archaeology lies in their fundamental approach to interpretation. Processualism seeks to establish objective, scientific explanations of the past using systems theory and general laws of human behavior. It views archaeology as a science. In contrast, Post-Processualism emphasizes that interpretation is subjective and contextual, influenced by individual agency, ideology, and symbolism. Post-processualists argue that the researcher's own background shapes their perspective, rejecting the idea of a single, universal truth. This theoretical divide addresses whether the goal is to discover objective

processes or to understand the subjective meanings of past human life.

249. (C) Dendrochronology

Dendrochronology is the most appropriate absolute dating method for a five-hundred-year-old wooden house beam, as it can provide a precise date in calendar years. This chronometric technique involves counting and analyzing the annual growth rings of trees. By matching the unique ring patterns of the sample with an established regional master sequence, researchers can determine the exact year the tree was cut. For wood from the recent historical past, dendrochronology offers far greater accuracy than other radiometric methods like radiocarbon dating. It is the gold standard for dating wooden structures in regions with suitable, well-preserved timber and sequences.

250. (A) Excavation is a unique, unrepeatable experiment that destroys the original context of the data.

Recording and documentation are vital because excavation is a non-repeatable process that inherently destroys the site's original structure. Every layer removed and artifact recovered must be precisely mapped and described to preserve its context. These detailed records allow researchers to reconstruct the three-dimensional relationship between finds and features. Without comprehensive documentation, the spatial data necessary for accurate scientific interpretation and future re-analysis would be lost forever. Stewardship requires that the physical destruction of a site is replaced by a permanent, meticulously detailed scientific record for future generations of scholars and the public.

251. (B) The systematic study of the human past through the analysis of material remains.

Archaeology is defined as the systematic study of the human past through material remains. It reconstructs past lifeways and cultural processes. Unlike antiquarianism, it uses scientific methods for recovery and analysis. This approach allows for a long-term perspective on human existence, documenting cultural history and explaining change over vast time frames starting from hominin tool use.

252. (A) responsible stewardship of the archaeological record and cultural heritage.

Ethical practice in this discipline requires responsible stewardship of the archaeological record. This involves preserving cultural heritage and conducting fieldwork with integrity. Researchers must engage respectfully with descendant communities and the public. Protecting non-renewable cultural resources ensures that the study of human history remains rigorous and accountable to both the scientific community and society at large.

253. (C) antiquarian collecting to a systematic, scientific discipline.

The discipline evolved from an antiquarian pursuit focused on collecting curiosities to a structured scientific field. This growth involved developing systematic methodologies for data recovery and interpretation. Refined aims and ethical considerations now guide the study of non-renewable resources. This transition emphasizes rigorous analysis and responsible stewardship over the simple acquisition of artifacts for private or public display.

254. (D) How did changes in pottery technology reflect shifts in social organization?

A central concern for modern practitioners is explaining cultural change and understanding social structures. Analyzing how technological shifts, such as pottery developments, correlate with organizational changes in society aligns with these multifaceted aims. This approach provides a long-term perspective on human existence. It moves beyond aesthetic appreciation or market value to focus on reconstructing past lifeways.

255. (C) non-renewable resource requiring careful management.

Cultural resources are viewed as non-renewable assets that require careful management and preservation. Because these remains are finite, their investigation must be conducted with scientific rigor and ethical responsibility. Every excavation permanently alters the archaeological record. Stewardship involves protecting this heritage from destruction or neglect to ensure that future generations can still learn from these material remains.

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256. (B) the establishment of institutions during the colonial period.

Modern archaeological research in the subcontinent began with the creation of formal institutions during the British colonial era. These organizations initiated the first systematic explorations and documentations of the region's heritage. Although driven by imperial interests, this period established foundational chronologies and identified major sites. It served as the starting point for the subsequent evolution of the discipline.

257. (D) It had a narrow focus on grand monuments, often overlooking protohistoric cultures.

Early research in the region was often critiqued for its disproportionate focus on monumental architecture and classical texts. This imperialistically motivated phase sometimes overlooked the broader spectrum of prehistoric and protohistoric cultures. By prioritizing grand structures, practitioners neglected the complex daily lives and earlier cultural trajectories. Post-independence shifts sought to rectify this narrow focus by incorporating diverse evidence.

258. (A) a shift towards a more scientific approach and a focus on national identity.

After independence, the discipline in India moved toward a scientific framework focused on building national identity. Researchers sought to move beyond colonial-era perspectives by adopting new methodologies and theoretical viewpoints. This transition emphasized the diversity of India's cultural history, from the Stone Age onwards. It reflected a conscious effort to refine methods and broaden the research themes.

259. (C) Only (II)

The growth of the discipline in India is characterized by a significant transition from a colonial enterprise to a national science. It is not a stagnant narrative but a dynamic evolution. This shift involved adopting new theoretical perspectives and methodologies to explore diverse cultural trajectories. Moving beyond early imperial frameworks allowed for a more comprehensive understanding of the region's past.

260. (A) the ongoing process of methodological improvement and broadening of research themes.

The evolution of this field involves a continuous process of refining methodologies and diversifying research themes. It represents a move from a narrow focus to a comprehensive study of various periods and cultures. This dynamic change ensures that investigations remain rigorous and inclusive of the subcontinent's diverse history. It highlights the transition from colonial motivations to a nationally driven pursuit.

261. (D) Archaeology is an interdisciplinary field that integrates social and natural sciences.

This field is fundamentally interdisciplinary, integrating methodologies from both social and natural sciences. It utilizes anthropological models to interpret social structures while employing scientific techniques for physical analysis. This synergy allows researchers to extract human meaning from material remains. Without combining these diverse perspectives, the study would lack either the necessary chronological control or the essential cultural context.

262. (B) both disciplines seek to understand human cultures, one through material remains and the other often through living societies.

The connection between these two fields is vital because they both aim to understand human cultures. One focuses on the material remains of past societies, while the other often examines living populations. By sharing goals like uncovering social structures and belief systems, they provide mutual theoretical support. This relationship allows for a deeper interpretation of cultural dynamics across different timeframes.

263. (C) understanding site stratigraphy and formation processes.

Principles from the earth sciences are essential for interpreting site formation and stratigraphy. Understanding how layers accumulate and change over time provides the necessary physical context for recovered remains. This scientific approach ensures that the relationship between different artifacts and features is recorded

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accurately. It allows for better chronological control and helps explain the environmental conditions surrounding a site.

264. (D) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

The natural sciences provide critical tools for dating, environmental reconstruction, and understanding how sites were formed. Without these analytical techniques, material remains would lack the necessary context and chronological precision. Scientific methods allow researchers to characterize artifacts and analyze residues accurately. This data ensures that the interpretation of the past is based on solid, verifiable evidence rather than speculation.

265. (A) Palaeobotany and zooarchaeology

Reconstructing past subsistence strategies involves specialized fields that analyze organic remains. Studying ancient plant materials and animal bones provides insights into the diet and environment of prehistoric communities. These disciplines provide the biological data needed to understand how humans interacted with their surroundings. Such analysis is a key component of the interdisciplinary approach used to interpret the human past.

266. (B) A collection of ancient seeds found in a hearth.

Organic and environmental remains found at a site are classified as ecofacts. Examples include seeds, animal bones, and soil samples that offer insights into past environments and subsistence. Unlike portable artifacts made by humans, these remains provide information about the natural world during a specific period. They are essential for reconstructing how ancient populations utilized their surrounding resources for survival.

267. (B) Systematic prospection employs a structured methodology for uniform coverage, unlike the more intuitive random approach.

Systematic exploration uses structured methodologies, such as grids or transects, to ensure uniform coverage of a designated area. This contrast with random prospection, which relies on local information or intuition. The methodical approach provides a more representative sample of the archaeological landscape. It allows for a statistically valid assessment of site density and distribution, reducing bias in the initial discovery.

268. (A) locate, record, and assess the distribution of archaeological sites.

Exploration is a critical phase focused on locating, recording, and assessing the distribution of sites and features. The goal is to build a comprehensive inventory of cultural resources within a specific region. This activity identifies promising locations for more intensive investigation, such as excavation. It provides the foundational data needed for subsequent analysis and helps manage non-renewable cultural assets.

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269. (C) It provides a more representative and statistically valid sample of the archaeological landscape.

Structured surveys are considered scientifically robust because they provide a representative and statistically valid assessment of the landscape. By following a methodical plan, researchers ensure uniform coverage and identify site distributions more accurately. This approach reduces the inherent bias found in intuitive or chance-based discoveries. It creates a reliable dataset that serves as the basis for all subsequent interpretation and research.

270. (D) a form of systematic prospection.

Walking in parallel lines across a specific area to record surface finds is a hallmark of systematic prospection. This structured methodology ensures that every part of the survey area is examined with equal intensity. It allows researchers to map the density and distribution of artifacts across the landscape accurately. This approach provides a statistically valid way to identify and inventory archaeological sites.

271. (C) They can map buried features non-invasively before digging begins.

Non-invasive methods allow researchers to map buried features without disturbing the ground. These techniques, such as resistivity surveys, detect variations in soil properties to identify walls, ditches, or pits. This preliminary investigation helps target specific areas for future study or protects sites by documenting them without excavation. It provides a way to understand the

subsurface layout while preserving the original context.

272. (B) the process permanently dismantles the original context of the site.

Digging is described as a destructive process because it permanently dismantles the original stratigraphic context of a site. Once a layer is removed or an artifact is lifted, the unique spatial relationship between objects is lost. This makes the procedure an unrepeatable experiment. Therefore, meticulous recording through notes and drawings is essential to preserve information before the site is altered.

273. (D) The remnants of a buried stone wall surrounded by soil.

Geophysical methods are effective at detecting buried features like stone walls because they have different physical properties than the surrounding soil. For instance, stone and earth retain moisture differently, which affects electrical resistance. Measuring these variations allows researchers to map the layout of structures without digging. This non-invasive approach is highly useful for identifying large-scale features and planning targeted investigations.

274. (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Detailed documentation is essential during excavation because the process is inherently destructive and cannot be repeated. Capturing the spatial relationships between finds and layers is the only way to preserve the site's context. The quality of these records directly determines the value of the information gathered. Without meticulous notes and drawings, the scientific potential of the record is lost.

275. (C) Remote sensing

Using aerial or satellite imagery to identify features like ancient canals is a form of remote sensing. This method reveals large-scale patterns and structures that are often invisible from the ground. It provides a broad perspective on the landscape, helping researchers locate roads, fortifications, or field systems. Such non-invasive techniques are crucial for mapping buried heritage across vast and difficult terrains.

276. (A) To extract meaningful cultural information from material remains.

The fundamental objective of studying recovered objects is to extract meaningful cultural information. This systematic process goes beyond simple description to understand technological change, trade networks, and cultural affiliations. By transforming masses of items into structured datasets, researchers can reconstruct past behaviors. Analysis provides the evidence needed to build interpretations of how ancient societies functioned and interacted with their environments.

277. (D) Categorization

The initial stage of analysis involves sorting finds into broad groups based on their raw material. This process makes large assemblages manageable for further, more detailed study. By separating items like stone, ceramic, and metal, researchers can apply specific specialized techniques to each group. This fundamental step organizes the data and prepares it for classification into more specific types and styles.

278. (B) classification.

Creating typologies involves subdividing artifacts into specific types based on shared attributes such as shape, size, or decoration. This detailed sorting helps researchers identify chronological sequences and stylistic changes over time. By grouping similar objects together, it becomes possible to study patterns of development within a culture. This process is essential for organizing archaeological data into a structure suitable for interpretation.

279. (C) Was the copper used to make this axe mined locally or imported?

Deep scientific analysis is used to determine the composition and origin of raw materials. This process helps answer questions about whether resources were sourced locally or imported through trade networks. For example, analyzing the chemical makeup of metal tools can reveal the specific alloys and mining locations used. Such techniques are vital for understanding ancient technologies and economic connections between societies.

280. (D) (a)-(iii), (b)-(i), (c)-(ii)

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Analysis follows a specific sequence starting with broad sorting by material. Next, researchers create detailed types based on specific attributes like shape and decoration. Finally, scientific techniques are used to determine the chemical composition and provenance of the materials. This progression transforms raw finds into a structured dataset. It allows for a comprehensive understanding of technological processes and broader cultural affiliations.

281. (A) offer theoretical frameworks for interpreting social structures from material patterns.

Theoretical frameworks from the social sciences help archaeologists understand complex social dynamics and power structures from material patterns. These models provide a lens through which researchers can interpret differences in burials or housing. By applying these concepts, it is possible to move beyond simple description to explain the behaviors and ideologies of past societies. This approach enriches the interpretation.

282. (B) ethnography (ethnoarchaeology).

Studying living communities to generate analogies for past behaviors is known as ethnoarchaeology. By observing how modern traditional groups organize their spaces or manufacture goods, researchers can better understand similar patterns in the archaeological record. This method helps bridge the gap between static remains and dynamic human actions. It provides a practical tool for testing hypotheses about how artifacts were used.

283. (B) Trying to build a canoe using only replicas of neolithic stone adzes.

Attempting to recreate past technologies through practical tests is a key interpretive method. For example, using replicas of ancient tools to build structures provides insights into the time, skill, and feasibility involved in those practices. These experiments allow researchers to test hypotheses about manufacturing processes and usage. This hands-on approach offers a unique perspective on the lived experiences of past populations.

284. (A) By generating analogies from living societies to understand past behaviors.

Observing contemporary societies allows researchers to create analogies that help interpret similar patterns found in the past. This approach provides a way to understand how people might have organized their living spaces or discarded waste. By studying living traditions, archaeologists can generate models for the human behaviors that produced static remains. This comparative tool is essential for constructing more realistic explanations.

285. (C) connect static material remains with the dynamic human actions that produced them.

The main aim of various interpretive methods is to link static material remains with the dynamic human behaviors that created them. By using social models, ethnography, and experimental replication, researchers can reconstruct the actions and lives of past people. This process moves archaeological study from simple cataloguing to explaining how ancient societies functioned. It provides a deeper understanding of our shared humanity.

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286. (D) Traditional

Focusing on culture history by creating timelines and mapping the distribution of styles is a traditional approach. This method seeks to describe and catalogue cultures in time and space, often linking material changes to migration or diffusion. It primarily addresses questions of what, where, and when. This framework was dominant during the early half of the twentieth century before newer theories emerged.

287. (C) To explain the processes of cultural change using scientific and systems-based models.

The goal of this scientific framework was to explain the processes of cultural change using systems theory and ecological models. It viewed culture as an adaptive system and sought to discover universal laws of cultural dynamics. This approach emerged as a critique of descriptive history, emphasizing an explanatory and more rigorous scientific methodology to understand how societies transformed over time.

288. (B) emphasizing the role of symbolism, ideology, and the subjectivity of interpretation.

Critics of processualism emphasized that interpretation is subjective and that there is no

single objective past. This approach focuses on the importance of agency, ideology, and symbolism in shaping human culture. It argues that material culture is not just a passive reflection of behavior but is actively used in social strategies. This perspective highlights the role of individuals and human meaning.

289. (D) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

This scientific approach often utilizes ecological models to understand how societies adjust to their environments. By viewing culture as an adaptive system, researchers try to formulate general laws regarding cultural dynamics and change. This perspective emphasizes that social transformations are often responses to environmental factors. It focuses on explanation rather than just description, seeking to understand the underlying processes of adaptation.

290. (A) Post-Processual

An interpretation that views material culture as an active tool for signaling identity and status aligns with post-processual theories. This approach emphasizes that objects are manipulated within social strategies and carry symbolic meaning. It rejects the idea that artifacts are merely functional or passive reflections of behavior. Instead, it highlights how agency and ideology influence the way materials are used in society.

291. (C) It disseminates knowledge from destructive excavations that cannot be repeated.

Detailed reporting is a professional obligation because it shares the knowledge gained from excavations that permanently destroy the site's context. These comprehensive documents are the primary way to preserve information for the scholarly community and the public. Without thorough recording and dissemination, the data from a site is effectively lost forever. This ensures that the destructive process remains scientifically justifiable.

292. (A) stabilize and protect remains from post-excavation deterioration.

The goal of this process is to stabilize and protect remains from deterioration once they are exposed to new environments. Excavation changes the conditions surrounding artifacts, making them vulnerable to decay. Methods like chemical treatments or structural engineering are used to ensure the long-term survival of objects and buildings. This activity is vital for preserving cultural heritage after it is uncovered.

293. (D) legal frameworks designed to protect a nation's cultural heritage.

Legal frameworks established by nations protect cultural heritage from looting, unregulated development, and illicit trafficking. These laws define the ownership of finds and regulate archaeological activities within a country. They ensure that the study of the past is conducted responsibly and legally. By providing these rules, nations can safeguard their non-renewable resources for future generations and academic research.

294. (B) A construction company being required to fund an archaeological assessment before building on a historic area.

Requiring archaeological assessments before construction on historic land is a practical application of laws protecting cultural heritage. These regulations ensure that potential sites are identified and documented before they are destroyed by development. This legal mechanism balances modern progress with the need to manage non-renewable resources. It ensures that significant history is not lost to unregulated growth or private interests.

295. (C) A detailed report makes the destructive nature of an excavation scientifically justifiable.

Detailed reporting makes the destructive nature of digging scientifically acceptable by ensuring that all gathered information is preserved and shared. Because excavation cannot be repeated, the resulting report becomes the only lasting record of the site's context. This professional responsibility transforms a destructive act into a source of permanent knowledge. Without it, the study would be merely an act of destruction.

296. (D) It arranges events and objects in a chronological sequence without providing a specific year.

The core idea of this approach is to arrange artifacts and deposits in a sequence of older or younger without specifying a calendar year. It

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creates a structural framework for understanding the order of events. These methods, such as stratigraphy and typology, provide the relative timing needed to organize the archaeological record. They are essential when absolute dates are not available.

297. (A) Cultural stratigraphy

This method relies on the idea that in an undisturbed sequence, lower layers are older than those above them. This fundamental principle of superposition allows researchers to determine the relative age of different deposits. It provides a reliable way to sequence events and artifacts found within a site. Cultural stratigraphy uses this logic to build a chronological framework for interpretation.

298. (B) typology.

Arranging artifacts based on stylistic changes over time is a method used to create a chronological sequence. It assumes that certain features, like decoration or form, evolve in a predictable manner. This allows researchers to place objects in an older than or younger than order. It is a key relative dating technique for organizing collections and understanding cultural development.

299. (B) assess whether different bones found in the same geological layer are of a similar age.

Comparing the chemical makeup of bones from the same deposit helps determine if they are contemporaneous. Elements like fluorine are absorbed from groundwater at a steady rate over time. This analysis can reveal if items in a single layer were actually buried at the same time or if they are of different ages. It serves as a useful relative dating tool.

300. (A) Relative dating provides a foundational chronological framework that can be enhanced by absolute dates.

Relative dating techniques establish a foundational structural framework for chronology that can later be anchored by absolute dates. These methods are indispensable for ordering most archaeological remains, especially when chronometric data is unavailable. Principles like superposition and typology provide the initial sequence of events. Together, relative and absolute methods provide a complete and reliable timeline.

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CHAPTER 02

Introduction to Prehistory

1. Which of the following is considered a component of the biological dimension of human prehistory?
(A) Evolution of various stone tool implements
(B) Main stages of evolution and fossil records
(C) Significant environmental and climatic changes
(D) Development of diverse lithic technologies

2. The study of the geological time scale is part of which dimension of human beginnings?
(A) The geological dimension
(B) The cultural dimension
(C) The biological dimension
(D) The chronological dimension

3. The Late Tertiary period is described as comprising which two epochs?
(A) Pleistocene and Holocene
(B) Pliocene and Pleistocene
(C) Miocene and Pliocene
(D) Miocene and Holocene

4. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Quaternary Period is divided into the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs.
Statement II : The Late Tertiary Period is divided into the Miocene and Pliocene epochs.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

5. The boundary between which two geological epochs is a significant focal point in the study of early human history?
(A) Miocene and Pliocene
(B) Pleistocene and Holocene
(C) Pliocene and Pleistocene
(D) Tertiary and Quaternary

6. Which of the following is identified as a method for studying the geological time scale in a prehistoric context?
(A) Biostratigraphy
(B) Paleomagnetic records
(C) Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
(D) Dendrochronology

7. The study of Pleistocene flora and fauna falls under which specific field of research?
(A) Paleoclimatology
(B) Geochronology
(C) Hominin paleontology
(D) Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene

8. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The Pleistocene epoch is characterized by major environmental and climatic changes.
Reason (R) : The study of Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS) provides crucial data about the climatic fluctuations during the Pleistocene.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

9. What does 'MIS' stand for in the context of Pleistocene climatic studies?
(A) Major Interglacial Stages
(B) Miocene Isostatic Standard
(C) Marine Isotopic Stages
(D) Main Ice Sheet

10. Which category of hominin ancestors lived during the Late Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene?
(A) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo
(B) Neanderthals, Denisovans, and Homo sapiens

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(C) Various Primates, Hominoids, and Hominins
(D) Ardipithecus, Paranthropus, and Homo erectus

11. Consider the following statements regarding the geological time scale for prehistory:
1. The Late Tertiary period precedes the Quaternary period.
2. The Miocene epoch is part of the Quaternary period.
3. The Holocene is the most recent epoch within the Quaternary.
4. The Plio-Pleistocene boundary marks the end of the Tertiary.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 3 and 4 only

12. Which of the following is NOT a hominin group associated with the Late Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene?
(A) Pre-Australopiths
(B) Proconsul
(C) Australopiths
(D) Homo

13. The evolution of stone implements and the development of lithic technologies are central to which dimension of human prehistory?
(A) The geological dimension
(B) The climatic dimension
(C) The cultural dimension
(D) The biological dimension

14. Match the hominin group in List I with the general chronological context in List II:
List I: (Hominin Group)
P. Pre-Australopiths
Q. Australopiths
R. Homo
S. Modern Humans
List II: (General Chronological Context)
1. Pliocene and Pleistocene
2. Late Miocene and Pliocene
3. Holocene
4. Pleistocene and Holocene
(A) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-1, S-4
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

15. The study of hypotheses on modern human dispersal primarily relates to the investigation of which process?
(A) The global spread of Homo sapiens
(B) Migration of early Australopiths
(C) Faunal movement in the Pleistocene
(D) Spread of stone tool technologies

16. Which of the following is considered the earliest recognized stone tool industry?
(A) Acheulian
(B) Oldowan
(C) Flake-based industries
(D) Blade-based industries

17. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the cultural backdrop of prehistory.
(A) The evolution of stone implements is a key area of study.
(B) The Oldowan is a type of blade-based industry.
(C) Lithic technologies developed over time.
(D) The Acheulian followed the Oldowan in technological development.

18. Consider the following concepts associated with the geological and climatic context of the Pleistocene:
1. Plio-Pleistocene boundary
2. Paleomagnetic records
3. Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
4. Acheulian industry
5. Pre-Australopiths

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 1, 3, and 5 only
(C) 2, 4, and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

19. The term Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene refers to the study of:
(A) Development of specific stone tool sequences
(B) Magnetic polarity reversals in geological strata
(C) Succession of flora and fauna in deposits

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(D) Proposed dispersal routes of modern humans

20. The Acheulian is a specific industry within the evolution of:
(A) Bone tools
(B) Cave art
(C) Hominin bipedalism
(D) Stone implements

21. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The classification of Palaeolithic cultures differs terminologically between Africa and Europe.
Reason (R) : In Africa, the sequence is termed Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age, while in Europe it is termed Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

22. Which term is used for the earliest division of the Palaeolithic in Africa?
(A) Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Early Stone Age
(C) Oldowan Period
(D) Pre-Palaeolithic

23. In the European context, which cultural period succeeds the Middle Palaeolithic?
(A) Late Stone Age
(B) Mesolithic
(C) Acheulian
(D) Upper Palaeolithic

24. Palaeolithic cultural development is typically studied across the following regions EXCEPT:
(A) Australia
(B) Africa
(C) Europe
(D) China and South East Asia

25. Consider the following statements about Stone Age terminology:
1. The term Lower Palaeolithic is used for the earliest stone age in Africa.
2. The Middle Stone Age in Africa is contemporary with the Middle Palaeolithic in Europe.
3. The Late Stone Age is the African equivalent of the Upper Palaeolithic.
4. West Asia follows the same three-fold division as Europe (Lower, Middle, Upper Palaeolithic).

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3
(B) 2, 3, and 4
(C) 1, 3, and 4
(D) 1, 2, and 4

26. Which of the following topics relates to the aesthetic and symbolic aspects of prehistoric life?
(A) Prehistoric Art
(B) Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene
(C) Paleomagnetic records
(D) The Oldowan industry

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27. The study of Prehistoric Art should focus on its:
(A) Economic impact, trade, and material cost
(B) Association with specific hominin species
(C) Chemical composition and preservation steps
(D) Antiquity, significance, and distribution

28. Arrange the following geological epochs in correct chronological order, from oldest to most recent.
1. Holocene
2. Pliocene
3. Pleistocene
4. Miocene

(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 4, 2, 3, 1
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 2, 3, 4, 1

29. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Flake and Blade based industries represent a later stage of lithic technological development than the Oldowan.
Statement II : The Acheulian industry is primarily characterized by the production of large bifacial tools.

(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

30. In the context of human evolution and fossil records, the term 'hominin' refers to:
(A) All primate species, both living and extinct
(B) Any bipedal mammal from the Pliocene epoch
(C) All specific fossil apes from the Miocene
(D) Modern humans, extinct relatives, and ancestors

31. Match the regions in List I with their corresponding Palaeolithic terminology in List II:
List I: (Region)
P. Africa
Q. Europe
R. West Asia
S. China
List II: (Palaeolithic Terminology)
1. Lower, Middle, Upper Palaeolithic
2. Early, Middle, Late Stone Age
3. Palaeolithic cultural developments (general term)
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-1, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-1

32. What is the primary focus of studying Paleomagnetic records in prehistory?
(A) Study ancient diets through magnetic resonance
(B) Use reversals in Earth's magnetic field for chronology
(C) Reconstruct past climates using magnetic isotopes
(D) Map the distribution of magnetic ore for tool making

33. Which period immediately precedes the Quaternary Period in the geological time scale?
(A) Holocene
(B) Tertiary
(C) Pliocene
(D) Mesozoic

34. The 'cultural backdrop' for human evolution primarily refers to the development of:
(A) Lithic technologies
(B) Social structures
(C) Religious beliefs
(D) Agricultural practices

35. Consider the following major topics within the study of human beginnings:
1. Geological time scale
2. Human origin and evolution
3. Evolution of stone implements
4. Palaeolithic cultures of Australia
5. Prehistoric Art
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(B) 1, 3, 4, and 5
(C) 2, 3, 4, and 5
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 5

36. A researcher studying the transition from Australopiths to the genus Homo would be focusing on events primarily within which geological epochs?
(A) Miocene and Pliocene
(B) Pleistocene and Holocene
(C) Late Miocene only
(D) Pliocene and Pleistocene

37. The distribution of prehistoric art refers to its:
(A) Symbolic meaning across different cultures
(B) Chronological placement in the Stone Age
(C) Geographical spread across continents and sites
(D) Placement within a single_cave system

38. Which of the following represents a correct pair of a geological period and its constituent epoch?
(A) Quaternary - Pliocene
(B) Quaternary - Holocene
(C) Late Tertiary - Pleistocene
(D) Late Tertiary - Holocene

39. The term Plio-Pleistocene refers to the time period spanning which two epochs?
(A) Miocene and Pliocene
(B) Pleistocene and Holocene
(C) Miocene and Pleistocene
(D) Pliocene and Pleistocene

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40. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The study of human origin involves understanding biological, geological, and cultural dimensions.
Reason (R) : Human evolution was a multifaceted process influenced by changing environments, biological adaptations, and technological innovations.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

41. Which cultural stage in Europe is characterized by advanced blade technologies and a proliferation of art?
(A) Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Middle Palaeolithic
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Acheulian

42. Which of the following statements accurately reflects the study of prehistory and human evolution?
(A) The study includes Palaeolithic cultures in South East Asia.
(B) The focus is exclusively on the biological evolution of humans.
(C) The Holocene epoch is part of the Tertiary period.
(D) The Oldowan is a blade-based industry.

43. Which of the following is NOT a lithic industry recognized in the prehistoric record?
(A) Oldowan
(B) Acheulian
(C) Flake and Blade based industries
(D) Mousterian

44. The study of the antiquity of prehistoric art is concerned with its:
(A) Meaning and symbolism
(B) Age and origin in time
(C) Geographical location
(D) Connection to specific hominins

45. Consider the following key concepts in prehistory:
1. Plio-Pleistocene boundary
2. Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
3. Acheulian industry
4. Hominin ancestors
Which of these are directly related to the geological and climatic framework of prehistory?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 4
(D) All of the above

46. What is the most appropriate description of the Holocene epoch?
(A) Epoch of major glaciations and large mammal extinctions
(B) Epoch preceding the appearance of the genus Homo
(C) Epoch during which the first stone tools were made
(D) Current geological epoch, following the Pleistocene

47. In African prehistory, which period follows the Middle Stone Age?
(A) Later Stone Age
(B) Upper Palaeolithic
(C) Iron Age
(D) Neolithic

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48. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The term Late Stone Age is the chronological and cultural equivalent of Europe's Upper Palaeolithic.
Statement II : The term Early Stone Age is the chronological and cultural equivalent of Europe's Lower Palaeolithic.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

49. Which of the following is an example of a Flake and Blade based industry?
(A) An industry focusing on core tools like hand axes.

(B) Primary products are flakes or blades struck from a core.

(C) An industry exclusively using pebbles with minimal change.
(D) An industry based on grinding and polishing stone.

50. Match the concept in List I with the corresponding field of study in List II:
List I: (Concept)
P. Important fossil records
Q. Evolution of stone implements
R. Pleistocene flora and fauna
S. Marine Isotopic Stages
List II: (Field of Study)
1. Cultural backdrop
2. Biostratigraphy
3. Climatic changes of Pleistocene
4. Main stages of human evolution
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

51. The appearance of Pre-Australopiths is associated with which geological epoch(s)?
(A) Pleistocene and Holocene
(B) Holocene only
(C) Late Miocene and Pliocene
(D) Late Pliocene and Early Pleistocene

52. Identifying the incorrect pair of region and terminology:
(A) Africa - Early Stone Age
(B) Europe - Upper Palaeolithic
(C) West Asia - Middle Palaeolithic
(D) Africa - Lower Palaeolithic

53. The Quaternary Period is a major division of the geological time scale that is particularly important for human evolution because it includes:
(A) The emergence of the first primates
(B) The extinction of the dinosaurs
(C) The entire span of genus Homo evolution
(D) The formation of the continents

54. If an archaeologist discovers a site with Oldowan tools, they are studying a manifestation of the:

(A) Upper Palaeolithic
(B) Earliest phase of the cultural backdrop
(C) Middle Stone Age
(D) Blade-based industries

55. Consider the following statements regarding the focus areas of prehistoric study:
1. The study covers the biological evolution from Pre-Australopiths to Homo.
2. It includes the study of climate change during the Pleistocene using MIS data.
3. It involves a comparative study of Palaeolithic terminology in Africa and Europe.
4. It requires an analysis of prehistoric art's significance and distribution.
5. It limits the study of lithic technology to the Oldowan industry only.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 5
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(D) 1, 3, and 5 only

56. The main stages of human evolution and the study of important fossil records are key components of the:
(A) Biological dimension
(B) Cultural dimension
(C) Geological dimension
(D) Artistic dimension

57. The study of Palaeolithic cultural developments in China and South East Asia implies that the prehistoric record in these regions is:
(A) Identical to that of Europe
(B) Separate and unrelated to African developments
(C) Part of the broader Palaeolithic world context
(D) Limited only to the Holocene epoch

58. Which of the following best describes the significance of the Plio-Pleistocene boundary?
(A) Critical time for the genus Homo emergence
(B) Marks the end of the last Ice Age
(C) Signifies the start of the Tertiary period
(D) Defined by first appearance of prehistoric art

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59. The development from Oldowan choppers to Acheulian hand axes represents a key progression in:
(A) Biological evolution
(B) Climatic adaptation
(C) Human dispersal
(D) Lithic technologies

60. Which option correctly identifies a major epoch of the Quaternary period and a key feature associated with it?
(A) Pliocene - Major climatic fluctuations
(B) Pleistocene - Major climatic changes
(C) Miocene - Development of blade industries
(D) Holocene - Emergence of Australopiths

61. What is the primary significance of studying Pleistocene flora and fauna in a prehistoric context?
(A) To understand the diet of early hominins
(B) Trace evolution of domesticated species
(C) Indicators for past environment reconstruction
(D) Study the origins of artistic motifs

62. The term lithic in the context of lithic technologies refers to:
(A) Bone
(B) Wood
(C) Clay
(D) Stone

63. The European threefold Palaeolithic division (Lower, Middle, Upper) is also applied to which other region?
(A) West Asia
(B) South East Asia
(C) China
(D) Africa

64. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Oldowan industry is older than the Acheulian industry.
Statement II : The Acheulian industry is characterized by more complex and standardized tool forms than the Oldowan.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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65. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The study of Paleomagnetic records is crucial for establishing long-term prehistoric chronologies.
Reason (R) : The Earth's magnetic field has reversed its polarity at irregular intervals, and these reversals are recorded in geological strata, providing global correlation markers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

66. A researcher focusing on the significance of prehistoric art would most likely be investigating:
(A) Ritual, symbolic, or narrative meanings
(B) Exact number of paintings in a cave
(C) Chemical composition of pigments
(D) Geological age of the rock surface

67. Which hominin group's name literally means southern ape and was a key stage in human evolution primarily during the Pliocene and early Pleistocene?
(A) Pre-Australopiths
(B) Homo
(C) Australopiths
(D) Ardipithecus

68. The Middle Stone Age of Africa is broadly contemporary with which cultural period in Europe?
(A) Upper Palaeolithic
(B) Lower Palaeolithic
(C) Neolithic
(D) Middle Palaeolithic

69. Which of the following is NOT part of the Late Tertiary period?
(A) Miocene
(B) Pliocene
(C) Pleistocene
(D) Both A and B are part of the Late Tertiary

70. Consider the following statements about the subdivisions of the Stone Age:
1. The Early Stone Age is the African equivalent of the Lower Palaeolithic.
2. The Upper Palaeolithic is found in both Europe and Africa under the same name.
3. West Asia follows the African terminology for the Stone Age.
4. Blade-based industries are characteristic of the later Palaeolithic stages.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3
(D) 2, 3, and 4

71. The study of the evolution from Pre-Australopiths to Australopiths to Homo falls under the:
(A) Cultural dimension of prehistory
(B) Geological dimension of prehistory
(C) Artistic dimension of prehistory
(D) Biological dimension of prehistory

72. The term world context in Palaeolithic cultural development in the world context implies:
(A) Comparative approach across continents
(B) Universal model of cultural evolution
(C) Study of global cultural interactions
(D) Focus on World Heritage Sites only

73. The Acheulian industry is typically succeeded by:
(A) The Oldowan industry
(B) The Holocene
(C) Flake-based Middle Palaeolithic industries
(D) Pre-Australopith tool use

74. The Holocene is best defined as:
(A) Geological epoch beginning after the Ice Age
(B) Last major glacial period of Pleistocene
(C) Entire duration of the Quaternary period
(D) Period of first hominin appearance

75. Match the term in List I with the corresponding description in List II:
List I: (Term)
P. Oldowan
Q. Acheulian
R. Upper Palaeolithic
S. Pleistocene
List II: (Description)
1. An epoch with major climatic fluctuations.
2. An industry characterized by blade and burin production.
3. The earliest stone tool industry.
4. An industry known for bifacial hand axes.
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

76. Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the study of prehistory?
(A) Human origin has three main dimensions.
(B) Quaternary includes Miocene and Pliocene.
(C) Important hominin fossils are part of study.
(D) Art antiquity is a major area of inquiry.

77. A student analyzing the environmental context of early human evolution would find which topic most relevant?
(A) Hypotheses on modern human dispersal
(B) Palaeolithic cultural developments in China
(C) Major climatic changes of the Pleistocene
(D) The significance of prehistoric art

78. Africa, Europe, West Asia, China, and South East Asia are major focus areas for the study of:
(A) Distribution of Australopith fossils
(B) The origins of the Holocene
(C) Earliest forms of prehistoric art
(D) Palaeolithic cultural development

79. The development of blade-based industries is a key technological marker often associated with which period?
(A) Upper Palaeolithic / Late Stone Age
(B) The Oldowan
(C) The Acheulian
(D) The Pliocene

80. Consider the following topics related to the cultural development of prehistory:
1. The Oldowan industry
2. Late Stone Age of Africa
3. Australopiths and Homo
4. Upper Palaeolithic of Europe
5. Pleistocene flora and Fauna

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Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 4 only
(B) 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(D) All of the above

81. Which period is defined by the first two-thirds of the Stone Age and is characterized by the use of flaked stone tools?
(A) The Holocene
(B) The Palaeolithic
(C) The Neolithic
(D) The Tertiary

82. The study of Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS) helps in reconstructing:
(A) Past global ice volume and sea-levels
(B) Hominin migration routes
(C) Sequence of stone tool industries
(D) History of Earth's magnetic field

83. Which of the following correctly lists the three-fold division of the Stone Age in Africa?
(A) Lower, Middle, Upper Palaeolithic
(B) Oldowan, Acheulian, Mousterian
(C) Early, Middle, Late Stone Age
(D) Pliocene, Pleistocene, Holocene Stone Age

84. The hypotheses on modern human dispersal attempt to explain the origins and spread of:
(A) Australopithecus africanus
(B) Homo habilis
(C) Neanderthals
(D) Homo sapiens

85. Arrange the following hominin groups/stages in the general order of their appearance in the fossil record.
1. Homo
2. Australopiths
3. Pre-Australopiths
4. Modern Humans

(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 3, 1, 2, 4
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

86. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Palaeolithic developments in China and South East Asia are treated as distinct and important areas of study in world prehistory.
Statement II : The cultural sequence in East Asia during the Palaeolithic perfectly mirrors the sequence in Europe.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

87. Which of the following is NOT one of the primary dimensions of human prehistory?
(A) Geological
(B) Biological
(C) Cultural
(D) Economic

88. The transition from the Pliocene to the Pleistocene is a critical timeframe for studying:
(A) Evolution of early members of genus Homo
(B) The very first signs of life on Earth
(C) The development of agriculture
(D) The extinction of the dinosaurs

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89. A key feature of the Acheulian industry, which distinguishes it from the Oldowan, is the presence of:
(A) Microliths
(B) Ground stone axes
(C) Bifacially worked tools like hand axes
(D) Pottery

90. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The lithic technology of the Upper Palaeolithic is generally considered more advanced than that of the Middle Palaeolithic.
Reason (R) : The Upper Palaeolithic is characterized by the efficient production of standardized blades, which allowed for a greater variety of specialized tools.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

91. The Late Tertiary period provides the geological context for the emergence of:
(A) The first members of the genus Homo
(B) Early Pre-Australopiths and Australopiths
(C) Modern humans (Homo sapiens)
(D) Development of blade technologies

92. The study of the significance of prehistoric art primarily involves an inquiry into its:
(A) Age
(B) Purpose and meaning
(C) Geographical location
(D) Pigment composition

93. The study of Palaeolithic cultural development in a world context necessitates a comparison between regions such as Africa and:
(A) The Americas
(B) Antarctica
(C) Europe
(D) Australia

94. Identifying the correct pair of a geographic region and its corresponding Stone Age terminology:
(A) Africa – Upper Palaeolithic
(B) Europe – Late Stone Age
(C) West Asia – Lower Palaeolithic
(D) China – Palaeolithic

95. Consider the following concepts related to the chronology and environment of the prehistoric past:
1. Paleomagnetic records
2. Marine Isotopic Stages
3. Biostratigraphy
4. The Acheulian industry
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) All of the above

96. The Pleistocene is often informally known as the:
(A) Age of Reptiles
(B) Age of Mammals
(C) Ice Age
(D) Age of Humans

97. An archaeologist excavating a level with simple choppers and flakes, with no evidence of hand axes or blades, would most likely classify the industry as:
(A) Acheulian
(B) Upper Palaeolithic
(C) Oldowan
(D) Neolithic

98. Match the time period or epoch in List I with the corresponding key development in List II:
List I: (Time Period/Epoch)
P. Late Miocene
Q. Pliocene
R. Pleistocene
S. Holocene
List II: (Key Associated Development)
1. Major climatic changes, evolution of Homo
2. Current interglacial, post-Pleistocene epoch
3. Emergence of Pre-Australopiths
4. Flourishing of Australopiths
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

99. The main difference between the African and European terminology for the Stone Age is:
(A) The number of subdivisions
(B) Use of Stone Age vs. Palaeolithic
(C) Chronological order of the periods
(D) Types of tools found in each period

100. The category of Hominin ancestors of the Late Miocene, Pliocene and the Pleistocene include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Pre-Australopiths
(B) Australopiths
(C) Early members of the genus Homo
(D) Primates of the Eocene

101. The study of prehistoric art's distribution focuses on:
(A) Figure arrangement within a single panel
(B) Sequence of different art styles
(C) Geographic spread of art sites globally
(D) Symbolic meaning shared across regions

102. Given below are two statements:

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Statement I : The Plio-Pleistocene boundary is a significant marker in the geological time scale relevant to human evolution.
Statement II : Paleomagnetic records are used to study the diet of Pleistocene fauna.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

103. The evolution of stone implements from simple Oldowan forms to complex blade-based technologies is a central theme of the:
(A) Biological dimension of prehistory
(B) Geological dimension of prehistory
(C) Cultural dimension of prehistory
(D) Climatic dimension of prehistory

104. Which of the following is the final epoch of the Quaternary period?
(A) Pliocene
(B) Miocene
(C) Pleistocene
(D) Holocene

105. Consider the following specific lithic industries or technological categories:
1. The Oldowan
2. The Acheulian
3. The Solutrean
4. The Flake based industries
5. The Blade based industries

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
(B) 1, 2, 4, and 5
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) 2, 4, and 5 only

106. A study focusing on the dispersal of Homo sapiens out of Africa would fall under which topic?
(A) Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene
(B) Hypotheses on modern human dispersal
(C) Plio-Pleistocene boundary
(D) Acheulian industries of the Stone Age

107. The climatic fluctuations of the Pleistocene, which are crucial for understanding human evolution, are studied through:
(A) The analysis of Oldowan tools
(B) The distribution of prehistoric art
(C) Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
(D) The study of hominin fossil morphology

108. The term Middle Palaeolithic is used to describe a cultural stage in which of the following regions?
(A) Africa and Europe
(B) Europe and West Asia
(C) Africa and China
(D) South East Asia only

109. Which of the following is the most appropriate description for the cultural backdrop of human evolution?
(A) The history of all human beliefs
(B) Development of material stone culture
(C) Development of language systems
(D) Social organization of early hominins

110. The classification Pre-Australopiths refers to:
(A) The earliest members of the genus Homo
(B) Hominins pre-dating Australopithecus
(C) Non-hominin apes of the Miocene
(D) Hominins of the Upper Palaeolithic

111. Which two geological periods are subdivided into epochs such as Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene, and Holocene?
(A) Precambrian and Paleozoic
(B) Mesozoic and Cenozoic
(C) Late Tertiary and Quaternary
(D) Archaean and Proterozoic

112. The study of the sequence of fossilized plants and animals in geological layers to understand chronology and environment is called:
(A) Paleomagnetism
(B) Biostratigraphy
(C) Lithic analysis
(D) Isotopic analysis

113. Within the prehistoric record, which option shows a correct developmental sequence of lithic technologies?
(A) Acheulian -> Oldowan -> Blade industries
(B) Blade industries -> Acheulian -> Oldowan
(C) Oldowan -> Acheulian -> Blade industries
(D) Oldowan -> Blade industries -> Acheulian

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114. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The study of prehistory is concerned only with the cultural developments in Africa.
Statement II : Prehistoric studies include Palaeolithic developments in Europe, West Asia, China, and South East Asia.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

115. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The study of Pleistocene climate is fundamental to understanding human evolution during that epoch.
Reason (R) : Major climatic changes during the Pleistocene, such as glacial and interglacial cycles, directly impacted hominin habitats, resources, and migration patterns.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

116. The presence of Australopith fossils in a geological deposit would most likely date it to the:
(A) Late Miocene
(B) Pliocene or Early Pleistocene
(C) Late Pleistocene or Holocene
(D) Holocene only

117. Which region uses the Early, Middle, Late Stone Age terminology for its Palaeolithic sequence?
(A) Europe
(B) West Asia
(C) Africa
(D) China

118. The antiquity of prehistoric art refers to its:
(A) Geographic spread
(B) Great age
(C) Symbolic interpretation
(D) Artistic quality

119. Identifying the incorrect statement:
(A) The Holocene is the current geological epoch.
(B) The Pleistocene epoch experienced major climatic changes.
(C) The Pliocene is part of the Quaternary period.
(D) The Miocene is part of the Late Tertiary period.

120. Consider the following pairs of regions and their Palaeolithic terminology:
1. Africa : Early Stone Age
2. Europe : Lower Palaeolithic
3. West Asia : Middle Stone Age
4. Africa : Late Stone Age

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 4
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

121. The period from approximately 2.6 million years ago to 11,700 years ago, characterized by repeated glaciations, is known as the:
(A) Pliocene
(B) Pleistocene
(C) Holocene
(D) Miocene

122. A researcher examining the shift from flake-based industries to blade-based industries is studying a key technological transition primarily associated with the beginning of the:
(A) Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Middle Palaeolithic
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Oldowan period

123. The study of hominin ancestors directly pertains to which dimension of human prehistory?
(A) Cultural dimension
(B) Biological dimension
(C) Geological dimension
(D) Artistic dimension

124. Match the cultural stage in List I with the corresponding characteristic in List II:
List I: (Cultural Stage)
P. Oldowan
Q. Acheulian

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R. Upper Palaeolithic
S. Middle Palaeolithic
List II: (Characteristic)
1. Bifacial handaxes and cleavers
2. Prepared-core flake technologies
3. Simple pebble tools (choppers)
4. Proliferation of blade tools and art
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

125. In the study of prehistory, the link between human origin and the geological time scale suggests a relationship between:
(A) Artistic expression and climate change
(B) Biological evolution and Earth's history
(C) Stone tool technology and political organization
(D) Modern human dispersal and the Holocene

126. The term that encompasses the entire period of human existence before the invention of writing and the beginning of recorded history is:
(A) Pleistocene
(B) Prehistory
(C) Quaternary
(D) Palaeolithic

127. When comparing the Palaeolithic timelines of Africa and Europe, which key difference must be highlighted?
(A) Presence of art only in Europe
(B) Terminology: ESA/MSA/LSA vs. LP/MP/UP
(C) African stone vs. European bone tools
(D) Length of the respective timelines

128. What is the relationship between the Pleistocene and the Quaternary?
(A) Pleistocene is an epoch within Quaternary
(B) Quaternary is an epoch within Pleistocene
(C) Two separate and unrelated periods
(D) Synonymous terms for same time period

129. The study of the Palaeolithic cultural developments in China and South East Asia is important because:
(A) It shows global uniform developments
(B) Regional perspective on human adaptations
(C) Only region with prehistoric art found
(D) Contains entire fossil evolutionary record

130. Consider the following topics related to the prehistoric beginning:
1. Geological dimensions of humans
2. Biological dimensions of humans
3. Cultural dimensions of humans
4. Palaeolithic cultural developments in the Americas
5. Hypotheses on modern human dispersal
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 1, 2, 3, and 5
(C) 2, 3, 4, and 5
(D) All of the above

131. The focus on important fossil records within the main stages of human evolution is an example of which type of scientific evidence?
(A) Paleoenvironmental
(B) Archaeological
(C) Paleontological
(D) Ethnographic

132. The Late Stone Age (LSA) of Africa is technologically and chronologically analogous to:
(A) The Middle Palaeolithic of Europe
(B) The Lower Palaeolithic of Europe
(C) The Upper Palaeolithic of Europe
(D) The Acheulian industry

133. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Oldowan and Acheulian are both flake and blade-based industries.
Statement II : The Acheulian industry is known for its characteristic large cutting tools, like the hand axe.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

134. A site containing fossils of Australopiths, early Homo, and Oldowan tools would be crucial for understanding events around the:
(A) Holocene climatic optimum
(B) Plio-Pleistocene boundary
(C) End of the Miocene

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(D) Upper Palaeolithic transition

135. Arrange the following lithic traditions in their correct chronological order of appearance.
1. Blade-based industries
2. Acheulian
3. Oldowan

(A) 3, 2, 1
(B) 2, 3, 1
(C) 1, 3, 2
(D) 3, 1, 2

136. Which of the following is an example of a cause-and-effect relationship in prehistory?
(A) Blade tools caused Australopith extinction
(B) Pleistocene climate influenced human evolution
(C) Prehistoric art led to Acheulian industry
(D) Plio-Pleistocene boundary caused dispersal

137. The study of prehistoric art's significance is an inquiry into its:
(A) Market value in modern times
(B) Role and meaning in societies
(C) Chemical stability over millennia
(D) Precise chronological date

138. The development of flake and blade based industries represents a shift towards:
(A) Using the core as the primary tool
(B) Efficient production of cutting edges
(C) Abandoning stone as a raw material
(D) Creating larger tools than Acheulian

139. Which of the following is NOT a geographical area typically specified for the study of Palaeolithic cultural development?
(A) West Asia
(B) South America
(C) China
(D) Africa

140. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The terminology for the Palaeolithic period is not uniform across the Old World.
Reason (R) : In Africa, the terms Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age are used, which correspond broadly to the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic of Europe.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

141. The group Australopiths is a key subject in the study of:
(A) Holocene adaptations
(B) Pliocene and early Pleistocene evolution
(C) Upper Palaeolithic art
(D) Modern human dispersal

142. What geological period is composed of the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs?
(A) Tertiary
(B) Cenozoic
(C) Quaternary
(D) Pliocene

143. Identifying the correct statement regarding lithic industries:
(A) The Acheulian industry predates the Oldowan.
(B) Blade-based industries are characteristic of the Early Stone Age.
(C) The Oldowan is known for simple core tools.
(D) Flake-based industries are exclusive to the Holocene.

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144. The study of the biological dimension of human prehistory would most likely involve analyzing:
(A) Distribution of different types of stone tools
(B) Skeletal remains of hominins
(C) The stratigraphy of an archaeological site
(D) Symbolic content of cave paintings

145. Consider the following statements about human evolution:
1. Hominin ancestors are often divided into Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo.
2. The evolution of these hominins occurred during the Late Tertiary and Quaternary periods.
3. The development of lithic technologies is

considered a separate, unrelated process.
4. Hypotheses of modern human dispersal are part of the study of prehistoric human populations.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, and 4
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

146. A scholar writing about the global expansion of Homo sapiens is addressing which specific topic?
(A) Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene
(B) Plio-Pleistocene boundary
(C) Hypotheses on modern human dispersal
(D) The Oldowan industry

147. What does the term Paleomagnetic records refer to?
(A) Study of ancient animal migrations
(B) Magnetic field polarity record in rocks
(C) Use of magnets to find sites
(D) Magnetic properties of ancient pottery

148. Match the geological unit in List I with the corresponding example in List II:
List I: (Geological Unit)
P. Period
Q. Epoch
R. Boundary
S. Data Source
List II: (Example)
1. Pleistocene
2. Plio-Pleistocene
3. Quaternary
4. Marine Isotopic Stages
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

149. The transition from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe is marked by significant changes in:
(A) Hominin species, technology, and symbols
(B) Climate from interglacial to glacial only
(C) Primary tool material from stone to metal
(D) Hominin diet from herbs to meat only

150. Which of the following is NOT one of the three core dimensions of human beginnings?
(A) Geological
(B) Political
(C) Biological
(D) Cultural

151. If a fossil is identified as a Pre-Australopith, it most likely dates to the:
(A) Holocene
(B) Late Pleistocene
(C) Late Miocene or early Pliocene
(D) Middle Pleistocene

152. The Acheulian industry, part of the Early Stone Age/Lower Palaeolithic, is best known for its:
(A) Microlithic points
(B) Ground and polished celts
(C) Standardized bifacial tools like hand axes
(D) Abstract engravings on bone

153. The significance of prehistoric art is a topic that delves into its:
(A) Physical and chemical properties
(B) Ritual, magic, or story functions
(C) Exact chronological placement
(D) Association with megafauna

154. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The geographical scope of Palaeolithic cultural studies is limited to Europe.
Statement II : Prehistoric studies explicitly includes Africa, Europe, West Asia, South East Asia, and China.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

155. Consider the following concepts related to the introduction to prehistory:
1. Plio-Pleistocene boundary
2. Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
3. The Oldowan and Acheulian industries
4. Palaeolithic cultural developments in China
5. The origins of agriculture

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(C) 2, 3, 4, and 5

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(D) All of the above

156. The main subject of biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene is the study of:
(A) Stratification of cultural layers
(B) Chronological succession of life forms
(C) Dispersal of early hominins
(D) Earth's magnetic field changes

157. The three-part division Lower Palaeolithic, Middle Palaeolithic and Upper Palaeolithic is the standard terminology for which two regions?
(A) Africa and China
(B) Europe and West Asia
(C) Africa and South East Asia
(D) China and South East Asia

158. The concept of hominin ancestors includes groups such as:
(A) Early primates of the Eocene
(B) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo
(C) Only Homo sapiens and Neanderthals
(D) All known bipedal primates

159. Which industry represents the earliest recognized stone tool technology?
(A) Acheulian
(B) Blade-based
(C) Oldowan
(D) Middle Stone Age

160. Which question best reflects the study of hypotheses on modern human dispersal?
(A) How did Neanderthals make stone tools?
(B) What was the Pliocene climate like?
(C) How did Homo sapiens spread globally?
(D) Why did Australopithecus go extinct?

161. The study of the geological, biological, and cultural dimensions provides a framework for understanding:
(A) The prehistoric beginning of humans
(B) Development of writing systems
(C) Process of animal domestication
(D) Rise of various urban centers

162. The Pleistocene epoch is part of which geological period?
(A) Tertiary
(B) Pliocene
(C) Quaternary
(D) Miocene

163. The development from core-based industries (Oldowan, Acheulian) to industries emphasizing flakes and blades represents an increase in:
(A) Size and weight of tools
(B) Efficiency of raw material use
(C) Reliance on non-stone materials
(D) Geographic range of hominins

164. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Late Stone Age of Africa is broadly contemporary with the Upper Palaeolithic of Europe.
Statement II : The Early Stone Age of Africa is broadly contemporary with the Middle Palaeolithic of Europe.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

165. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The study of prehistoric art includes its antiquity, significance, and distribution.
Reason (R) : Understanding when art appeared, what it might have meant, and where it is found are crucial for interpreting the cognitive and cultural lives of prehistoric people.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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166. Identifying the incorrect pair:
(A) Pleistocene - an epoch of the Quaternary
(B) Pliocene - an epoch of the Late Tertiary
(C) Oldowan - a blade-based industry
(D) Australopiths - a hominin group

167. The Plio-Pleistocene boundary is significant for human evolution because it is associated with:
(A) The first appearance of primates
(B) Homo emergence and stone tool use

(C) Extinction of the Neanderthals
(D) Beginning of the Holocene

168. An archaeologist studying prepared core techniques, such as the Levallois method, is most likely investigating which cultural stage?
(A) Oldowan
(B) Middle Palaeolithic / Middle Stone Age
(C) Upper Palaeolithic / Late Stone Age
(D) Acheulian

169. What is the primary purpose of using Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS) in prehistoric research?
(A) To identify marine fauna species
(B) To provide climate chronologies
(C) To map ancient sea trade routes
(D) To analyze seawater composition

170. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical scope of Palaeolithic studies:
1. It includes the Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age of Africa.
2. It includes the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic of Europe.
3. It includes cultural developments in China and South East Asia.
4. It includes West Asia within its scope.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, and 3
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(D) 4 only

171. The period defined by the emergence of early hominin ancestors like Pre-Australopiths and Australopiths is primarily the:
(A) Holocene
(B) Late Pleistocene
(C) Late Miocene and Pliocene
(D) Quaternary

172. The term lithic technologies in a prehistoric context refers to the methods and techniques used to make tools from:
(A) Wood
(B) Bone
(C) Stone
(D) Antler

173. Match the region or epoch in List I with the relevant cultural or chronological term in List II:
List I: (Region/Epoch)
P. Africa
Q. Europe
R. Pliocene
S. Pleistocene
List II: (Relevant Cultural/Chronological Term)
1. Upper Palaeolithic
2. Middle Stone Age
3. Australopiths
4. Marine Isotopic Stages
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

174. The cultural dimension of human prehistory focuses on:
(A) Genetic makeup of populations
(B) Evolution of tool traditions
(C) Changing climate and environment
(D) Fossil evidence for bipedalism

175. Arrange the following cultural stages/industries in correct chronological sequence from earliest to latest.
1. Upper Palaeolithic blade industries
2. Acheulian
3. Oldowan
4. Middle Palaeolithic flake industries
(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 3, 4, 1
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 2, 4, 3, 1

176. The end of the Pleistocene and the beginning of the Holocene marks:
(A) Beginning of Quaternary period
(B) End of last glacial Ice Age
(C) First appearance of genus Homo
(D) Emergence of Oldowan technology

177. The study of Palaeolithic cultural developments in China is important for understanding:
(A) Universal European model truth
(B) Regional variation in behaviors
(C) East Asian agriculture origins
(D) The dispersal of Neanderthals

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178. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Biostratigraphy uses the fossil remains of plants and animals to date geological layers.
Statement II : Paleomagnetism uses the reversals of the Earth's magnetic field to create a chronological scale.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

179. A key characteristic of Upper Palaeolithic / Late Stone Age industries is the emphasis on producing:
(A) Large, heavy core tools
(B) Standardized elongated blades
(C) Simple unifacially worked pebbles
(D) Ground stone tools for agriculture

180. The most appropriate term for the human lineage and its immediate ancestors after the split from the chimpanzee lineage is:
(A) Primate
(B) Hominoid
(C) Hominin
(D) Anthropoid

181. In which dimension of prehistory would you place the study of the Acheulian industry?
(A) Geological
(B) Biological
(C) Cultural
(D) Chronological

182. Which geological epoch is most associated with the genus Australopithecus?
(A) Miocene
(B) Pliocene
(C) Holocene
(D) Late Pleistocene

183. The study of the distribution of prehistoric art helps archaeologists understand:
(A) Cognitive abilities of artists
(B) Absolute dating of art pieces
(C) Geographical range of people
(D) Symbolic meaning of motifs

184. The distinction between Early Stone Age and Lower Palaeolithic is primarily one of:
(A) Chronology and older ages
(B) Associated hominin species
(C) Geographic region terminology
(D) Tool raw material types

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185. Consider the following topics studied in the European prehistoric context:
1. Lower Palaeolithic
2. Middle Palaeolithic
3. Upper Palaeolithic
4. Acheulian industry (as part of Lower Palaeolithic)

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(C) 1 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

186. The study of the prehistoric beginning is:
(A) Single focus on fossil data
(B) Integrated multidimensional process
(C) Limited to Holocene epoch
(D) Limited to African geography

187. The study of major environmental and climatic changes of the Pleistocene is a key topic because these changes:
(A) Directly caused prehistoric art
(B) Shaped environments for evolution
(C) Only occurred at Plio-Pleistocene
(D) Studied best through lithics

188. Which of the following is NOT a hominin group typically categorized within the main stages of human evolution?
(A) Homo
(B) Australopiths
(C) Pre-Australopiths
(D) Denisovans

189. A researcher studying the origins of modern humans and their spread across the globe would be directly addressing which topic?
(A) Palaeolithic cultural developments in China
(B) Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene
(C) Hypotheses on modern human dispersal
(D) The antiquity of prehistoric art

190. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The Oldowan industry represents the earliest phase of stone tool technology.
Reason (R) : It is succeeded by the more complex Acheulian industry, indicating a clear technological evolution.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

191. The thematic study of antiquity, significance, and distribution is related to:
(A) Hominin fossils
(B) Prehistoric Art
(C) Stone tool industries
(D) Geological epochs

192. Which of the following represents a correct chronological ordering?
(A) Pliocene -> Miocene -> Pleistocene
(B) Miocene -> Pliocene -> Pleistocene
(C) Pleistocene -> Pliocene -> Miocene
(D) Pliocene -> Pleistocene -> Miocene

193. The cultural backdrop for human evolution is primarily documented through the study of:
(A) Fossil skeletons
(B) Pollen records
(C) Stone implements
(D) Paleomagnetic data

194. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The term Middle Stone Age is used in the archaeological sequence of Europe.
Statement II : The term Middle Palaeolithic is used in the archaeological sequence of Africa.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

195. Consider the following statements about the subdivisions of prehistory:
1. The Late Tertiary period includes the Miocene and Pliocene.
2. The Quaternary period includes the Pleistocene and Holocene.
3. The Early Stone Age of Africa is equivalent to the Lower Palaeolithic of Europe.
4. The Late Stone Age of Africa is equivalent to the Upper Palaeolithic of Europe.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

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196. An important method for understanding Pleistocene climate, based on oxygen isotopes in foraminifera, is:
(A) Biostratigraphy
(B) Paleomagnetism
(C) Analysis of Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
(D) Acheulian technological analysis

197. The term Homo, as in the genus Homo, refers to a group that includes:
(A) All Australopiths
(B) Modern humans and extinct relatives
(C) All known bipedal primates
(D) Only modern humans (Homo sapiens)

198. The progression from Oldowan to Acheulian to flake and blade-based industries reflects the:
(A) Evolution and development of lithic technologies.
(B) Changing climate from Pliocene to Pleistocene.
(C) Dispersal of hominins out of Africa.
(D) Main stages of biological human evolution.

199. Match the term in List I with the corresponding associated concept in List II:
List I: (Term)
P. Homo
Q. Acheulian
R. Pleistocene
S. Prehistoric Art
List II: (Associated Concept)
1. Climatic fluctuations and MIS
2. Hominin genus
3. Antiquity and significance
4. Lithic industry
(A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

200. The division of the Palaeolithic in West Asia follows the model of which other region?
(A) Africa
(B) Europe
(C) China
(D) South East Asia

201. Which geological epoch immediately precedes the Pleistocene?
(A) Holocene
(B) Miocene
(C) Pliocene
(D) Tertiary

202. The study of the cultural dimension of human prehistory focuses primarily on:
(A) Skeletal morphology
(B) Genetic drift and flow
(C) Development of material tool culture
(D) Various climatic oscillations

203. The term Australopiths refers to:
(A) Early hominins primarily from Pliocene
(B) First members of the genus Homo
(C) Makers of Upper Palaeolithic art
(D) Type of stone tool from Australia

204. Identifying the correct statement:
(A) Late Stone Age is Europe's Middle Palaeolithic.
(B) Oldowan is a complex blade-based industry.
(C) Pleistocene is an epoch of Quaternary.
(D) Prehistoric art is exclusive to Europe.

205. Consider the following regions as focus areas for Palaeolithic cultural development:
1. Africa
2. Europe
3. West Asia
4. China and South East Asia

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(C) 1, 2, and 5
(D) All of the above

206. The study of the biological dimension of human prehistory includes which of the following?
(A) Evolution of stone implements
(B) Human evolution stages and fossils
(C) Major environmental changes
(D) Prehistoric art distribution

207. A key feature that develops after the Oldowan and characterizes the Acheulian industry is:
(A) The use of microliths
(B) Systematic production of bifacial tools
(C) The first use of stone for tools
(D) The appearance of pottery

208. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : The Plio-Pleistocene boundary is a major focal point in the study of human evolution.
Statement II : The genus Homo emerged and diversified around the Plio-Pleistocene boundary.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

209. The Holocene is the geological epoch that is characterized by:
(A) Continental ice sheets and megafauna
(B) Emergence of the first hominins
(C) Stable post-Ice Age warmer climate
(D) Formation of Plio-Pleistocene boundary

210. Match the geographic area in List I with the corresponding Palaeolithic division term in List II:
List I: (Geographic Area)
P. Africa
Q. Europe
R. West Asia
List II: (Palaeolithic Division Term)
1. Lower Palaeolithic
2. Middle Stone Age
3. Upper Palaeolithic
(A) P-2, Q-1, R-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2

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211. Which time period is the focus for the study of major environmental and climatic changes relevant to much of human evolution?
(A) The Miocene
(B) The Pliocene
(C) The Pleistocene
(D) The Holocene

212. What does the evolution of stone implements refer to?
(A) Change in hominin skeletal structure
(B) Development of complex tool technologies
(C) Geological process of stone formation
(D) Trade and exchange of stone tools

213. For the purposes of evolutionary study, hominin ancestors are typically divided into which three main groups?
(A) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo
(B) Neanderthals, Denisovans, and Homo sapiens
(C) Primates, Hominoids, and Hominins
(D) Ardipithecus, Paranthropus, and Homo erectus

214. In which academic dimension of prehistory would a study on the origins of bipedalism in early hominins be placed?
(A) Geological dimension
(B) Cultural dimension
(C) Biological dimension
(D) Artistic dimension

215. The term Quaternary refers to a geological:
(A) Epoch
(B) Period
(C) Era
(D) Eon

216. The transition from the Acheulian to flake-based industries of the Middle Palaeolithic/MSA involved a shift in focus from:
(A) Core tools to flake tools
(B) Stone tools to bone tools
(C) Flake tools to core tools
(D) Hunting tools to gathering tools

217. Identifying the incorrect statement regarding the geological time scale:
(A) Miocene and Pliocene are Late Tertiary epochs.
(B) Pleistocene and Holocene are Quaternary epochs.
(C) Plio-Pleistocene separates Tertiary and Quaternary.
(D) Holocene is the epoch that precedes Pleistocene.

218. The study of prehistoric art's antiquity is primarily concerned with establishing its:
(A) Meaning
(B) Age
(C) Location
(D) Function

219. The Late Stone Age in Africa is characterized by technologies that are comparable to those of the:
(A) Lower Palaeolithic in Europe
(B) Middle Palaeolithic in Europe
(C) Upper Palaeolithic in Europe
(D) Neolithic in Europe

220. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other as Reason (R):
Assertion (A) : The Plio-Pleistocene boundary is a period of major significance in human evolution.
Reason (R) : This boundary is marked by significant climatic shifts, the decline of Australopiths, and the rise of the genus Homo along with more sophisticated stone industries.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

221. Which concept is used to create a high-resolution climate and chronological record for the Pleistocene based on oceanic sediment cores?
(A) Paleomagnetic records
(B) Biostratigraphy
(C) Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
(D) Dendrochronology

222. The term hominin is best defined as:
(A) Any prehistoric fossil primate

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(B) Modern humans and all post-split ancestors
(C) Any primate living in the Pleistocene
(D) Great apes family including gorillas

223. What is the fundamental characteristic of the Oldowan lithic industry?
(A) Production of symmetrical hand axes
(B) Production of parallel-sided blades
(C) Modification of pebbles into choppers
(D) Prepared core techniques like Levallois

224. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Human prehistory is typically studied through the geological, biological, and cultural dimensions of the prehistoric beginning.
Statement II : These three dimensions are highly integrated and should be studied as a multifaceted process.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

225. Consider the following statements about the cultural stages of the Palaeolithic:
1. The Oldowan is the earliest named industry.
2. The Acheulian is characterized by bifaces.
3. The Upper Palaeolithic sees a rise in blade production.
4. The Middle Palaeolithic is associated with prepared-core techniques.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2, and 3 only
(C) 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

226. The phrase hypotheses on modern human dispersal refers to scientific models explaining:
(A) Pre-Australopith movement across Africa
(B) How Homo sapiens populated the globe
(C) Seasonal migration of Pleistocene fauna
(D) Spread of Acheulian tool tradition

227. The Pliocene epoch belongs to which geological period?
(A) Quaternary
(B) Late Tertiary
(C) Holocene
(D) Pleistocene

228. The emergence of blade-based industries is a hallmark of which cultural period?
(A) Early Stone Age / Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Middle Stone Age / Middle Palaeolithic
(C) Late Stone Age / Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Oldowan

229. Which of these is the most recent geological epoch?
(A) Pliocene
(B) Miocene
(C) Pleistocene
(D) Holocene

230. A researcher studying the first appearance of symbolic behavior through engravings and personal ornaments would be most interested in which subject?
(A) Biostratigraphy
(B) Prehistoric Art
(C) Paleomagnetism
(D) The Plio-Pleistocene boundary

231. The terms Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic are standard terminologies for:
(A) Africa and South East Asia
(B) Europe and West Asia
(C) Africa only
(D) Global prehistory

232. Identifying the correct pair of a hominin group and its general time frame:
(A) Australopiths - Holocene
(B) Pre-Australopiths - Pleistocene
(C) Homo - Pliocene and Pleistocene
(D) Modern Humans - Miocene

233. The study of the prehistoric beginning as a multidimensional process means that:
(A) Factors must be viewed individually
(B) Interplay of various complex factors
(C) Dimensions are mostly contradictory
(D) Cultural is the only relevant dimension

234. Which lithic industry is chronologically situated between the Oldowan and the industries of the Middle Palaeolithic/MSA?

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(A) Acheulian
(B) Blade-based industries
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Mousterian

235. Consider the following elements within the prehistoric framework:
1. Plio-Pleistocene boundary
2. Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)
3. Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene
4. Australopiths
5. Prehistoric Art

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 4 only
(B) 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

236. A key topic of study for the Pleistocene epoch is its:
(A) Stable and unchanging climate
(B) Major environmental and climatic changes
(C) Lack of any hominin fossils
(D) Position within the Tertiary period

237. The evolution of stone implements from simple to complex forms over time is a key indicator of:
(A) Declining cognitive abilities in hominins
(B) Developing cognitive and technical skills
(C) Shift from carnivore to herbivore diet
(D) Period of prolonged climatic stability

238. Given below are two statements:
Statement I : Human evolutionary studies cover the lineage from Pre-Australopiths through to the genus Homo.
Statement II : The dispersal of modern humans is a central topic within the biological and cultural study of prehistory.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

239. The division between the Tertiary and Quaternary periods is marked by the:
(A) Holocene-Pleistocene boundary
(B) Plio-Pleistocene boundary
(C) Miocene-Pliocene boundary
(D) Appearance of the first primates

240. The African equivalent of the European Lower Palaeolithic is the:
(A) Late Stone Age
(B) Middle Stone Age
(C) Early Stone Age
(D) Oldowan Period

241. The development of industries focused on producing flakes from prepared cores is the hallmark of the:
(A) Oldowan
(B) Acheulian
(C) Middle Palaeolithic / Middle Stone Age
(D) Upper Palaeolithic / Late Stone Age

242. The study of Palaeolithic culture in a world context specifically includes Africa, Europe, and which of the following?
(A) The Americas
(B) Australia
(C) West Asia, China and South East Asia
(D) The Pacific Islands

243. The study of the biological dimension of human origins focuses on:
(A) The dating of geological strata
(B) Fossil analysis for evolutionary lineage
(C) The typology of stone tools
(D) The interpretation of cave art

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244. Match the industry or period in List I with the key feature in List II:
List I: (Industry/Period)
P. Oldowan
Q. Acheulian
R. Upper Palaeolithic
S. Holocene
List II: (Key Feature)
1. Bifaces (Hand axes)
2. Current post-glacial epoch
3. Choppers and flakes
4. Blade and burin technology, art
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

245. Arrange the following in the correct chronological order, from oldest to most recent.
1. The beginning of the Holocene epoch.
2. The Plio-Pleistocene boundary.
3. The appearance of Pre-Australopiths in the Late Miocene.
4. The flourishing of Acheulian industries.

(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 3, 4, 1
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

246. If an archaeological layer in Africa is dated to 150,000 years ago and contains sophisticated flake tools from prepared cores, it would be classified as:
(A) Oldowan
(B) Acheulian
(C) Middle Stone Age
(D) Late Stone Age

247. The Pleistocene epoch is characterized by recurring:
(A) Global volcanic eruption cycles
(B) Glacial and interglacial cycles
(C) Extreme global warming events
(D) Major meteorite impact events

248. The cultural backdrop in prehistory refers to the co-evolution of hominins and their:
(A) Social hierarchies
(B) Lithic technologies
(C) Genetic mutations
(D) Preferred food sources

249. Which of the following is a correct pairing of a region and its specific Palaeolithic terminology?
(A) Europe: Early Stone Age
(B) Africa: Upper Palaeolithic
(C) West Asia: Middle Palaeolithic
(D) China: Late Stone Age

250. The comprehensive study of human prehistory requires an integrated understanding of the geological context, biological evolution, and:
(A) Cultural developments
(B) Written records
(C) Political systems
(D) Economic theories

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The study of the prehistoric beginning of humanity is a multifaceted discipline, integrating geological, biological, and cultural dimensions to construct a comprehensive narrative of our origins. Central to this endeavor is the understanding of the geological time scale, which provides the chronological framework for both biological evolution and cultural development. The Late Tertiary and Quaternary Periods are of paramount importance, with the former encompassing the Miocene and Pliocene epochs, and the latter comprising the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs. A critical juncture in this timeline is the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, a transitional phase that witnessed significant environmental shifts and key developments in hominin evolution. The dating and correlation of geological strata from this period rely on various methods, including paleomagnetic records, which track the reversals in the Earth's magnetic field. The Quaternary Period, particularly the Pleistocene, is characterized by dramatic climatic fluctuations that profoundly influenced the course of human evolution. Understanding this deep-time context is foundational, as it situates the emergence of hominin ancestors and the subsequent evolution of stone tool technologies within a dynamic planetary history, linking biological changes to the ever-shifting environmental stage upon which they occurred.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

According to the passage, the prehistoric beginning of humans is best understood through which combination of dimensions?
(A) Chronological, environmental, and technological dimensions.
(B) Geological, biological, and cultural dimensions.
(C) Fossil records, tool typologies, and artistic expressions.
(D) Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene dimensions.

251. The passage identifies the Plio-Pleistocene boundary as a critical juncture primarily because it was a period of:
(A) significant environmental change and

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hominin developmental milestones.
(B) stable climatic conditions favouring hominin settlement.
(C) the first appearance of stone tool technologies.
(D) the final establishment of Earth's current magnetic polarity.

252. Which of the following correctly places the geological epochs in chronological order from earliest to most recent?
(A) Pliocene, Miocene, Pleistocene, Holocene.
(B) Pleistocene, Holocene, Miocene, Pliocene.
(C) Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene, Holocene.
(D) Miocene, Pleistocene, Pliocene, Holocene.

253. What is the primary function of paleomagnetic records in the context of studying prehistory as described in the source?
(A) To reconstruct ancient climates and environments.
(B) To analyze the biological adaptations of early hominins.
(C) To map the dispersal routes of modern humans.
(D) To provide a basis for dating and correlating geological strata.

254. The source suggests that the dramatic climatic fluctuations of the Pleistocene had a profound influence on:
(A) the reversals in the Earth's magnetic field.
(B) the boundary between the Pliocene and Pleistocene.
(C) the trajectory of human biological and cultural evolution.
(D) the development of geological dating methods.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Pleistocene epoch, a major division of the Quaternary Period, is defined by its dynamic and often severe environmental and climatic changes. These fluctuations, primarily characterized by cycles of glaciation and interglaciation, had a profound impact on landscapes, ecosystems, and the evolutionary path of life, including hominins. To reconstruct these complex environmental histories, prehistorians utilize sophisticated analytical tools, among which Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS) are prominent. MIS are global-scale climate cycles identified from oxygen isotope data in deep-sea sediment cores, providing a detailed chronology of warming and cooling periods throughout the Pleistocene. Complementing this geochemical data is the field of biostratigraphy, which focuses on the study of Pleistocene flora and fauna. By analyzing the fossilized remains of plants (paleobotany) and animals (paleozoology) within geological layers, researchers can infer local and regional paleoenvironmental conditions. The appearance, migration, or extinction of specific species serves as a powerful proxy for climatic shifts. For example, the presence of cold-adapted fauna like woolly mammoths indicates glacial conditions, whereas different floral assemblages suggest temperate or warmer climates. The integration of MIS data with biostratigraphic evidence allows for a high-resolution understanding of the environmental backdrop against which human evolution and cultural adaptations unfolded.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

What is the primary purpose of studying Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS) in the context of the Pleistocene?
(A) To identify the fossil remains of specific marine fauna.
(B) To establish a detailed chronology of global climate cycles.
(C) To map the changes in sea level during the Holocene.
(D) To analyze the biostratigraphy of terrestrial environments.

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255. According to the passage, biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene involves the analysis of:
(A) deep-sea sediment cores for oxygen isotope data.
(B) magnetic reversals recorded in volcanic rocks.
(C) the chemical composition of ice cores from polar regions.
(D) fossilized flora and fauna to reconstruct past environments.

256. One can infer from the passage that the presence of cold-adapted fauna in a geological layer suggests that the layer was deposited during:
(A) a glacial or colder climatic phase.
(B) a period of significant volcanic activity.
(C) an interglacial or warmer climatic phase.
(D) a time corresponding to a stable Marine Isotopic Stage.

257. The passage describes the major environmental characteristic of the Pleistocene epoch as being:
(A) a period of prolonged environmental stability and warmth.
(B) a consistent and gradual cooling trend leading to the Holocene.
(C) a series of cyclical fluctuations between glacial and interglacial conditions.
(D) an epoch dominated by tropical flora and fauna across the globe.

258. Which statement best describes the relationship between MIS and biostratigraphy as presented in the source?
(A) They are complementary methods, integrating global climate data with local environmental evidence.
(B) They are competing methods, with MIS being more reliable than biostratigraphy.
(C) Biostratigraphy provides the dating framework for the cycles identified by MIS.
(D) MIS is a sub-discipline of biostratigraphy focused exclusively on marine life.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The narrative of human evolution is traced through the main stages of development, which are primarily understood via a rich and ever-growing body of important fossil records. The story of our lineage, the hominins, begins to take shape in the Late Miocene and continues through the Pliocene and the Pleistocene epochs. These crucial geological periods witnessed the emergence and diversification of our earliest ancestors. The hominin fossil record from this vast expanse of time is broadly categorized into successive groups, starting with the Pre-Australopiths, who represent the earliest known forms close to the divergence point from other apes. Following them are the Australopiths, a diverse and successful group of early hominins that thrived during the Pliocene and Early Pleistocene. The final major stage in this evolutionary sequence is the emergence of our own genus, Homo. This genus, appearing in the Pleistocene, is distinguished by significant biological and cultural changes, including increased brain size and the development of sophisticated tool-making abilities. Studying these key fossil records, from the earliest Pre-Australopiths to the various species of Australopiths and culminating in the genus Homo, allows paleoanthropologists to piece together the complex mosaic of anatomical and behavioral changes that define the main stages of human evolution.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

According to the passage, the study of the main stages of human evolution relies principally on:
(A) analyzing Marine Isotopic Stages.
(B) interpreting prehistoric art.
(C) reconstructing lithic technologies.
(D) examining important fossil records.

259. The source indicates that the hominin ancestors from the Late Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene are broadly classified into which three successive groups?
(A) Miocene hominins, Pliocene hominins, and Pleistocene hominins.
(B) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo.
(C) Hominids, Hominins, and Homo sapiens.
(D) Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Late Stone Age groups.

260. Based on the evolutionary sequence described in the text, which group represents the earliest stage of hominin development?
(A) The genus Homo.
(B) The Australopiths.
(C) The Pre-Australopiths.
(D) The Pleistocene ancestors.

261. The emergence of the genus Homo during the Pleistocene is associated with which significant development?
(A) The initial divergence from other apes.
(B) The first appearance of bipedal locomotion.
(C) The peak diversification of the Australopiths.

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(D) Increased brain size and advanced tool-making.

262. One can infer from the passage that the Australopiths were a group of hominins who were chronologically situated:
(A) between the Pre-Australopiths and the emergence of the genus Homo.
(B) entirely before the Pre-Australopiths.
(C) exclusively within the Late Miocene epoch.
(D) after the appearance of the genus Homo.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Following the emergence and diversification of early members of the genus Homo, a pivotal chapter in the human story concerns the global expansion of our more recent ancestors. The study of this phenomenon is structured around various hypotheses on modern human dispersal. These theoretical models aim to explain the processes, timing, and routes by which anatomically and behaviorally modern humans populated the globe, eventually replacing or interacting with other archaic hominin populations. While the fossil and archaeological records provide the primary evidence, the interpretation of this evidence leads to different explanatory frameworks. These hypotheses are not merely about plotting points on a map; they delve into the biological and cultural capacities that enabled such a widespread and relatively rapid migration. The dispersal is intrinsically linked to the evolutionary success of the genus Homo and represents a key transition in the later stages of the Pleistocene. Evaluating these hypotheses requires a multidisciplinary approach, integrating fossil evidence of modern human anatomy, archaeological traces of advanced cultural behaviors (such as new lithic technologies and symbolic expression), and genetic data from contemporary and ancient populations. The core debate often revolves around the geographical origins of this dispersal and the nature of the interaction between migrating modern humans and pre-existing hominin groups.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

The central focus of hypotheses on modern human dispersal is to explain the:
(A) initial evolution of the genus Homo in Africa.
(B) process by which modern humans populated the world.
(C) reasons for the extinction of the Australopiths.
(D) climatic changes of the Late Pleistocene.

263. The passage suggests that the capacity for global dispersal is intrinsically linked to the evolutionary success of which group?
(A) Pre-Australopiths.
(B) The genus Homo.
(C) Australopiths.
(D) Late Miocene hominins.

264. It can be inferred that evaluating hypotheses of modern human dispersal would heavily rely on evidence of:
(A) advanced lithic technologies and symbolic behavior.
(B) Oldowan tool technology.
(C) climatic stability during the Pliocene.
(D) the biostratigraphy of the Early Pleistocene.

265. The study of modern human dispersal is primarily concerned with events that occurred during which period?
(A) The Late Miocene.
(B) The Pliocene.
(C) The later stages of the Pleistocene.
(D) The Early Pleistocene.

266. According to the text, what is a core element of the debate surrounding modern human dispersal hypotheses?
(A) The precise dating of the Plio-Pleistocene boundary.
(B) The validity of using paleomagnetic records for dating.
(C) The classification of Pre-Australopith fossils.
(D) The geographical origin and nature of interaction with other hominins.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The cultural backdrop to human evolution is vividly illustrated by the development of stone implements and the corresponding evolution of lithic technologies. This technological trajectory,

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spanning the entirety of the Stone Age, reflects the growing cognitive and manual capabilities of our hominin ancestors. The sequence typically begins with the Oldowan industry, the earliest well-documented stone tool technology. Oldowan assemblages are characterized by simple cores, choppers, and unmodified flakes, representing a foundational stage of lithic production. Following this, the Acheulian industry marks a significant technological leap forward. Its hallmark is the bifacially worked handaxe, a tool that demonstrates greater forethought, skill, and standardization in its manufacture compared to Oldowan implements. This tradition persisted for an exceptionally long period. The subsequent evolution led to the development of more specialized flake and blade-based industries. These later Stone Age technologies showcase advanced techniques for core preparation, enabling the systematic production of standardized blanks (flakes and blades) which could then be modified into a wide variety of specialized tools. This progression from the simple Oldowan to the sophisticated Acheulian and further to the efficient flake and blade-based industries represents a critical aspect of the cultural dimension of human evolution.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

What is the defining characteristic of the Acheulian industry as described in the passage?
(A) The use of simple cores and choppers.
(B) The systematic production of blade-based tools.
(C) The manufacture of bifacially worked handaxes.
(D) The use of unmodified flakes as primary implements.

267. The evolution from the Oldowan to the Acheulian industry is presented as a technological leap forward primarily due to the:
(A) first use of stone as a raw material for tools.
(B) greater standardization and forethought in tool design.
(C) introduction of polished stone implements.
(D) exclusive focus on producing small, sharp flakes.

268. Which of the following represents the earliest and simplest stone tool technology mentioned in the source?
(A) The Flake-based industry.
(B) The Acheulian industry.
(C) The Blade-based industry.
(D) The Oldowan industry.

269. The development of later Stone Age flake and blade-based industries enabled the:
(A) production of standardized blanks for specialized tools.
(B) creation of the first bifacial handaxes.
(C) use of simple choppers for heavy-duty tasks.
(D) abandonment of core preparation techniques.

270. Based on the passage, what does the overall evolution of lithic technologies during the Stone Age reflect?
(A) A decline in the quality of available raw materials.
(B) The shifting dietary preferences of hominins.
(C) The growing cognitive and manual skills of hominins.
(D) A decrease in the variety of tool types produced.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Understanding Palaeolithic cultural development requires a world context, acknowledging both the shared trends and the regional diversity in human adaptive strategies during the Stone Age. The study of this period is not monolithic; instead, it is geographically differentiated, with Africa, Europe, and a combined region of South East Asia and China representing key areas of investigation. Each of these zones exhibits a distinct trajectory and sometimes a unique terminology for its cultural sequences. This global perspective is crucial because it highlights that human evolution and cultural innovation did not unfold uniformly across the Old World. For instance, the classic technological sequences observed in one region may be absent or appear differently in another. By examining the Palaeolithic developments in Africa, the cradle of humankind; in Europe, with its rich record of later Palaeolithic art and

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technology; and in South East Asia and China, where lithic traditions can differ significantly, researchers can construct a more nuanced and accurate picture of humanity's prehistoric past. This comparative approach helps to unravel the complex interplay between hominin dispersals, environmental pressures, and local innovations that shaped the cultural landscape of the Pleistocene epoch on a global scale.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

Which three major geographical zones are highlighted for studying Palaeolithic cultural development in a world context?

(A) Africa, Europe, and the region of South East Asia and China.
(B) Africa, North America, and Australia.
(C) Europe, West Asia, and South America.
(D) The Middle East, Central Asia, and Europe.

271. The primary reason for studying the Palaeolithic in a world context is to:

(A) prove that cultural development was uniform across all continents.
(B) focus exclusively on the technological achievements of Europe.
(C) establish a single, universal terminology for the Stone Age sequences.
(D) appreciate the regional diversity and varied trajectories of cultural development.

272. The passage implies that the lithic traditions of South East Asia and China:

(A) are identical to the classic sequences found in Africa.
(B) may show significant differences from those in Europe and Africa.
(C) represent the most advanced Palaeolithic technologies globally.
(D) are primarily characterized by the presence of prehistoric art.

273. A comparative, global approach to the Palaeolithic helps researchers understand the interplay between which factors?

(A) Artistic expression, agricultural development, and urbanization.
(B) Geological time scales, magnetic reversals, and sea-level changes.
(C) Hominin dispersal, environmental pressures, and local innovation.
(D) Biostratigraphy, fossil preservation, and excavation techniques.

274. Based on the source, what can be inferred about the terminology used for Palaeolithic cultural sequences?

(A) A single, globally accepted set of terms is used.
(B) The terms are derived exclusively from African site names.
(C) Terminology is based on fossil hominin names rather than technology.
(D) The terminology can be distinct and specific to a particular region.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

In Africa, the cradle of humanity, the Palaeolithic period is structured into a tripartite system: the Early Stone Age (ESA), the Middle Stone Age (MSA), and the Late Stone Age (LSA). This framework charts the long-term cultural and technological evolution on the continent. The Early Stone Age is the longest of these periods and is fundamentally associated with the earliest lithic technologies. This includes the Oldowan industry, with its simple chopper and flake tools, followed by the more complex Acheulian industry, renowned for its characteristic bifaces like handaxes and cleavers. The subsequent period, the Middle Stone Age, represents a significant shift in technology and hominin behavior. It is marked by a move away from large cutting tools towards the prepared-core techniques, which allowed for the systematic production of predetermined flakes. These flake-based industries signal enhanced cognitive planning. Finally, the Late Stone Age is characterized by even greater innovation and variability, including the development of blade-based industries and microliths—small, standardized stone components designed to be hafted into composite tools. This African sequence from ESA to MSA to LSA provides a crucial regional narrative of increasing technological sophistication and behavioral complexity over the vast timescale of the Palaeolithic.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

The Palaeolithic period in Africa is divided into

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which three successive stages?
(A) Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age.
(B) Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic.
(C) Oldowan, Acheulian, and Blade-based.
(D) Pliocene, Pleistocene, and Holocene.

275. The Oldowan and Acheulian industries are primarily associated with which period of the African Stone Age?
(A) The Late Stone Age (LSA).
(B) The Early Stone Age (ESA).
(C) The Middle Stone Age (MSA).
(D) The transition between the MSA and LSA.

276. A key technological characteristic of the African Middle Stone Age (MSA) is the development of:
(A) microlithic composite tools.
(B) prepared-core techniques for flake production.
(C) bifacial handaxes and cleavers.
(D) simple chopper and core tools.

277. What innovation is specifically mentioned as a characteristic of the African Late Stone Age (LSA)?
(A) The development of blade-based industries and microliths.
(B) The first appearance of the Acheulian handaxe.
(C) A reliance on large cutting tools like cleavers.
(D) The exclusive use of Oldowan-style choppers.

278. The transition from the Early Stone Age to the Middle Stone Age in Africa signifies a shift towards:
(A) simpler and less standardized tool forms.
(B) technologies focused on large cutting tools like handaxes.
(C) greater cognitive planning evidenced by prepared-core methods.
(D) the abandonment of stone tool use altogether.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

In Europe and West Asia, the Palaeolithic cultural sequence is traditionally organized into a different, though parallel, tripartite division: the Lower Palaeolithic, the Middle Palaeolithic, and the Upper Palaeolithic. This terminology, while covering a similar sweep of time as the African sequence, has its own distinct associations and developmental markers. The Lower Palaeolithic in Europe is largely defined by the presence of Acheulian industries, characterized by the iconic handaxe, although earlier, non-Acheulian industries also exist. The subsequent Middle Palaeolithic is strongly associated with Neanderthals and is dominated by flake-based technologies, most notably the Mousterian industry, which is a prime example of prepared-core techniques. This period signifies a focus on producing efficient flakes from carefully shaped cores. The Upper Palaeolithic marks a major cultural and technological revolution. It is associated with the arrival of anatomically modern humans in Europe and is characterized by the proliferation of sophisticated blade-and-burin industries, a wide array of tools made from bone, antler, and ivory, and the first widespread appearance of symbolic expression in the form of personal ornaments and spectacular cave art. This European framework provides a detailed record of cultural change, technological innovation, and hominin succession in this specific geographical region.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

The Palaeolithic cultural sequence in Europe and West Asia is conventionally divided into:
(A) Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Late Stone Age.
(B) Oldowan, Acheulian, and Mousterian.
(C) Pre-Acheulian, Acheulian, and Post-Acheulian.
(D) Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic.

279. The Middle Palaeolithic period in Europe is most notably characterized by:
(A) the dominance of Acheulian handaxes.
(B) the first appearance of simple Oldowan choppers.
(C) the prevalence of flake-based technologies like the Mousterian.
(D) the proliferation of blade-and-burin industries.

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280. According to the passage, the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe is marked by a cultural and technological revolution that includes:
(A) the exclusive use of large bifacial tools.
(B) the emergence of sophisticated blade industries and widespread symbolic art.
(C) a simplification of stone tool manufacturing processes.
(D) a primary focus on flake production similar to the Middle Palaeolithic.

281. The European Lower Palaeolithic is largely defined by the presence of which lithic industry?
(A) Oldowan.
(B) Mousterian.
(C) Blade-and-burin.
(D) Acheulian.

282. One can infer from the text that the terminological distinction between the African (ESA, MSA, LSA) and European (Lower, Middle, Upper Palaeolithic) systems reflects:
(A) regionally specific research histories and cultural trajectories.
(B) the complete absence of the Acheulian industry in Africa.
(C) the fact that European prehistory is significantly older than African prehistory.
(D) a fundamental difference in the raw materials used for tool making.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

While the Palaeolithic sequences of Africa and Europe provide classic models of technological development, the study of Palaeolithic cultural developments in China and South East Asia reveals a distinct and somewhat different pattern. For much of the Pleistocene, the lithic assemblages in this vast eastern region appear to diverge from the Acheulian-dominated trajectory seen in the West. Instead of a proliferation of classic, bifacially-worked handaxes, the toolkits are often characterized by simpler core and flake tools, sometimes referred to as part of a chopper-chopping tool tradition. This does not necessarily imply a lack of cognitive ability, but rather a different adaptive strategy, possibly influenced by the availability of other raw materials like bamboo, which do not preserve in the archaeological record, or different functional needs and cultural traditions. The study of this region is critical for a balanced global perspective on the Palaeolithic, as it challenges any unilinear model of technological progress. It underscores that hominin populations in different parts of the world responded to their specific environmental and historical circumstances with unique and effective cultural solutions. Understanding the Palaeolithic of China and South East Asia is therefore essential for appreciating the full diversity of human behavior during the Stone Age.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

The Palaeolithic cultural developments in China and South East Asia are presented as being:
(A) identical to the sequence observed in Europe.
(B) a direct continuation of the African Middle Stone Age.
(C) distinct from the classic models of Africa and Europe.
(D) primarily focused on advanced blade and microlithic technologies.

283. What is a frequently noted characteristic of the lithic assemblages in China and South East Asia for much of the Pleistocene?
(A) The prevalence of simpler core and flake tools.
(B) A dominance of classic Acheulian handaxes.
(C) An abundance of prehistoric cave art.
(D) The widespread use of polished stone tools.

284. The passage suggests that the distinctiveness of the East Asian Palaeolithic might be explained by:
(A) a cognitive deficit in the hominin populations of the region.
(B) the complete lack of suitable stone for tool making.
(C) the region being uninhabited for most of the Palaeolithic period.
(D) a different adaptive strategy potentially involving non-lithic materials like bamboo.

285. Studying the Palaeolithic of China and South East Asia is important because it:
(A) confirms that all hominins followed a single path of technological development.

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(B) challenges unilinear models of technological progress.
(C) provides the best examples of Upper Palaeolithic art.
(D) shows that the Acheulian industry was a global phenomenon.

286. The term chopper-chopping tool tradition is used in the passage to describe the characteristic lithic technology of which region?
(A) Europe during the Middle Palaeolithic.
(B) Africa during the Late Stone Age.
(C) China and South East Asia during the Palaeolithic.
(D) West Asia during the Upper Palaeolithic.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The emergence of prehistoric art represents a profound cognitive and cultural threshold in human evolution, signaling the development of symbolic thought and complex communication. The study of this phenomenon focuses on three key interconnected aspects: its antiquity, its significance, and its distribution. The question of antiquity seeks to establish the chronological origins of artistic expression, placing the earliest evidence within the broader timeline of Palaeolithic cultural development. While incipient forms may have appeared earlier, a major flourishing is widely associated with the Upper Palaeolithic. The question of significance delves into the purpose and meaning behind the art. Interpretations are varied and complex, with scholars proposing that art served functions related to hunting magic, shamanistic rituals, information storage, or social identity. This aspect remains a subject of intense academic debate. Finally, the study of its distribution examines the geographical spread of artistic evidence. Prehistoric art is not confined to one region but is found across the globe, from the painted caves of Western Europe to rock art sites in Africa, Asia, and Australia, though forms and styles vary. The wide distribution underscores that the capacity for symbolic expression was a fundamental part of the behavioral repertoire of modern humans as they spread across the world.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

According to the passage, the study of prehistoric art focuses on which three main aspects?
(A) Technique, materials, and preservation.
(B) Antiquity, significance, and distribution.
(C) Artists, patrons, and audiences.
(D) Style, color, and location.

287. The significance of prehistoric art, as discussed in the text, relates to its:
(A) proposed purpose, function, and meaning.
(B) market value in the modern art world.
(C) precise chronological date of creation.
(D) geographical location and concentration.

288. The passage suggests that a major flourishing of prehistoric art is widely associated with which cultural period?
(A) The Oldowan industry.
(B) The Upper Palaeolithic.
(C) The Acheulian industry.
(D) The Middle Palaeolithic.

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289. What does the wide geographical distribution of prehistoric art suggest?
(A) That all prehistoric art was created by a single group of migrating artists.
(B) That artistic expression was a fundamental behavioral capacity of modern humans.
(C) That the meaning and style of art were identical in all regions.
(D) That art was only created in caves and never in open-air sites.

290. Investigating the antiquity of prehistoric art primarily involves:
(A) determining its chronological placement in the prehistoric timeline.
(B) interpreting the meaning of the symbols used.
(C) mapping the various locations where art has been found.
(D) analyzing the chemical composition of the pigments.

ANSWER

1. (B) Main stages of evolution and fossil records

   The biological dimension of human prehistory focuses on the physical development of the human lineage over millions of years. This field primarily examines the main stages of evolution through the analysis of important fossil records found globally. Researchers investigate skeletal changes, cranial capacity, and bipedal adaptations to understand how ancestral groups transitioned into modern humans. This evidence provides the fundamental biological framework for interpreting our prehistoric beginnings.

2. (A) The geological dimension

   Understanding human beginnings requires a multidimensional approach that includes the study of Earth's history. The geological dimension specifically encompasses the geological time scale, providing the chronological and environmental context for human evolution. This dimension allows scientists to situate early hominin developments within specific eras, periods, and epochs. By analyzing rock strata and geological processes, researchers can reconstruct the ancient landscapes where our ancestors lived and evolved over time.

3. (C) Miocene and Pliocene

   The geological time scale is divided into specific periods and epochs to better understand the timing of evolutionary events. In the context of early human prehistory, the Late Tertiary period is defined by two major epochs: the Miocene and the Pliocene. These epochs represent critical phases where early primate ancestors diverged and the first hominins began to emerge. Accurate chronological placement within these divisions is essential for researchers.

4. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

   The Cenozoic Era is subdivided into periods and epochs that mark significant phases in human evolution. The Quaternary Period is divided into the Pleistocene and the most recent Holocene epochs. Simultaneously, the Late Tertiary Period comprises the earlier Miocene and Pliocene epochs. These subdivisions are fundamental to geochronology, as they provide a standardized framework for dating fossil remains and cultural artifacts across different regions of the world.

5. (C) Pliocene and Pleistocene

   The transition between the Pliocene and Pleistocene epochs is a critical focal point in prehistoric studies. This boundary, occurring approximately two and a half million years ago, coincides with significant climatic cooling and the emergence of the genus Homo. Understanding the shifts in flora, fauna, and environmental conditions at this juncture helps researchers explain the adaptive pressures that drove early human biological and technological developments during this period.

6. (B) Paleomagnetic records

   Establishing an accurate timeline for prehistory involves various scientific methods used to study the geological time scale. Paleomagnetic records provide a reliable chronological tool by documenting historical reversals in the Earth's magnetic field. These reversals are preserved in rock and sediment layers, allowing researchers to correlate global geological events. This method is particularly useful for dating deep-time deposits where other dating techniques might be less precise or unavailable.

7. (D) Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene

   Biostratigraphy is a specialized field of research that focuses on the succession of fossilized flora and fauna within geological layers. In the context of the Pleistocene, this study helps establish the relative ages of deposits and reconstruct past environments. By analyzing the types of plants and animals present at different levels, scientists can identify climatic fluctuations and ecological changes that influenced the survival and migration of early humans.

8. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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The Pleistocene epoch is defined by dramatic environmental shifts, including repeated glacial and interglacial cycles. The study of Marine Isotopic Stages provides high-resolution data regarding these climatic fluctuations by analyzing oxygen isotope ratios in marine sediments. This scientific record confirms that the Pleistocene was a time of significant instability, which directly impacted hominin evolution. Consequently, the isotopic data offers a foundational explanation for the environmental changes observed.

9. (C) Marine Isotopic Stages

In the study of Pleistocene climates, the acronym MIS refers to Marine Isotopic Stages. This scientific framework uses oxygen isotope data retrieved from deep-sea sediment cores to track changes in global ice volume and ocean temperature over time. These stages provide a detailed chronological record of glacial and interglacial periods. Researchers rely on this data to understand the environmental pressures that shaped human evolution and dispersal throughout the Quaternary.

10. (A) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo

The evolutionary history of the human lineage involves a progression of ancestral groups spanning millions of years. During the Late Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene, three major categories of hominins emerged in succession. Pre-Australopiths represent the earliest ancestors, followed by the more diverse Australopiths. Finally, the genus Homo appeared, marking the transition toward modern humans. Fossil records from these epochs provide the primary evidence for understanding the biological foundations of prehistory.

11. (C) 1 and 3 only

The geological time scale for prehistory follows a specific chronological sequence. The Late Tertiary period correctly precedes the Quaternary period, which includes the evolution of our genus. Within the Quaternary, the Holocene is the most recent epoch, following the end of the last major ice age. Conversely, the Miocene is part of the Tertiary, not the Quaternary, and the Plio-Pleistocene boundary marks the start of the Quaternary period, not the end.

12. (B) Proconsul

Hominin evolution during the Late Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene is characterized by groups that are part of the direct human lineage or close relatives. Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and members of the genus Homo are all central to this period. However, Proconsul is an early Miocene primate that predates the hominin divergence. While significant for primate evolution, it is not considered a member of the specific hominin groups associated with later prehistoric developments.

13. (C) The cultural dimension

The study of human prehistory is divided into various dimensions to organize different types of evidence. The cultural dimension focuses specifically on the development of human behavior and technology. This includes the evolution of stone tool implements and the progression of diverse lithic technologies over time. By analyzing these artifacts, researchers can trace the cognitive advancements and environmental adaptations of early hominins through the materials they left behind in the archaeological record.

14. (A) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

Hominin groups are associated with specific geological timeframes based on the fossil record. Pre-Australopiths appeared during the Late Miocene and Pliocene epochs, while Australopiths are primarily found in Pliocene and Pleistocene deposits. The genus Homo spans the Pleistocene and continues into the Holocene. Finally, modern humans are the defining presence of the Holocene epoch. Understanding these chronological links is vital for mapping the long-term progression of biological and cultural human evolution.

15. (A) The global spread of Homo sapiens

Investigating the movement of ancient populations is a central theme in prehistoric research. The study of hypotheses on modern human dispersal specifically explores the processes and routes through which Homo sapiens spread from Africa to the rest of the world. This research integrates genetic, archaeological, and paleoenvironmental data to determine the timing and causes of these

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migrations. Understanding this global expansion is essential for explaining the current distribution and diversity of modern humans.

16. (B) Oldowan

The archaeological record identifies several distinct stages in the development of lithic technology. The Oldowan is recognized as the earliest formal stone tool industry, appearing over two and a half million years ago. It consists of simple choppers and flakes produced by striking one stone against another. This industry represents a significant cognitive leap for early hominins, marking the beginning of a persistent cultural tradition that evolved into more complex tools like the Acheulian.

17. (B) The Oldowan is a type of blade-based industry.

The cultural backdrop of prehistory is defined by the gradual evolution of stone tool technologies. The Oldowan is characterized by simple core and flake tools, not complex blade-based industries, which appeared much later in the archaeological record. While lithic technologies developed significantly over time, and the Acheulian succeeded the Oldowan, the classification of tool types must remain accurate. Blade-based industries are typically associated with the Upper Palaeolithic and represent a more advanced stage of production.

18. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only

The study of prehistory relies on a firm geological and climatic framework to contextualize human evolution. Key concepts in this area include the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, paleomagnetic records for dating, and Marine Isotopic Stages for understanding climatic cycles. While the Acheulian industry and Pre-Australopiths are essential subjects within prehistory, they belong specifically to the cultural and biological dimensions, respectively, rather than the primary geological and climatic data sources used to build the overarching chronological framework.

19. (C) Succession of flora and fauna in deposits

Biostratigraphy is a scientific discipline used to date and correlate geological layers based on their biological content. The term Biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene specifically refers to the study of the succession of flora and fauna within deposits from that epoch. By examining fossilized remains, researchers can determine the relative age of different strata and reconstruct the shifting environmental conditions that influenced the biological and cultural evolution of early human ancestors.

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20. (D) Stone implements

The Acheulian industry represents a major stage in the technological development of early humans. It is specifically a category within the evolution of stone implements, succeeding the simpler Oldowan industry. Characterized by the production of bifacial tools such as hand axes and cleavers, the Acheulian demonstrates increased cognitive planning and manual dexterity. This technological tradition persisted for over a million years and is a key marker of cultural progress during the Lower Palaeolithic.

21. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Archaeological terminology for Palaeolithic cultures varies geographically due to different research traditions and regional sequences. In Africa, researchers use the terms Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age to describe cultural progression. Conversely, the European sequence is traditionally divided into Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic stages. These terminological differences reflect the same broad technological shifts but are adapted to the specific archaeological contexts and histories of each continent, necessitating a comparative approach in global studies.

22. (B) Early Stone Age

In the study of African prehistory, the archaeological sequence is divided into three major periods. The Early Stone Age is the term used for the first and earliest division of the Palaeolithic in Africa. This period encompasses the emergence of the first stone tool industries, including the Oldowan and the Acheulian. This terminology distinguishes African cultural developments from those in Europe, although they cover a similar chronological span and comparable technological milestones.

23. (D) Upper Palaeolithic

The European Palaeolithic is traditionally subdivided into three distinct stages based on technological and cultural shifts. In this chronological sequence, the Upper Palaeolithic succeeds the Middle Palaeolithic. This transition is marked by the appearance of advanced blade technologies, a proliferation of diverse tool types, and the widespread emergence of prehistoric art and symbolic expression. This stage represents a significant phase of cultural intensification associated with the arrival and spread of modern humans across Europe.

24. (A) Australia

The study of Palaeolithic cultural development typically focuses on regions where early hominin evolution and the earliest stone tool industries took place. This includes Africa, Europe, West Asia, China, and South East Asia. While Australia has a rich prehistoric record, its human occupation began much later, primarily during the Late Pleistocene. Therefore, it is generally excluded from studies concerning the earliest global developments of Palaeolithic cultures and the foundational stages of lithic technology.

25. (B) 2, 3, and 4

Stone Age terminology varies across different regions of the world. The Middle Stone Age in Africa is broadly contemporary with the Middle Palaeolithic in Europe, and the Late Stone Age is the African equivalent of the Upper Palaeolithic. West Asia generally follows the same three-fold division used in Europe, consisting of Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic. However, the term Lower Palaeolithic is not used for the earliest African stage; instead, it is called the Early Stone Age.

26. (A) Prehistoric Art

Prehistoric life involved more than just survival and tool production; it also included the development of symbolic and aesthetic expression. The study of prehistoric art explores these aspects, focusing on cave paintings, engravings, and portable art objects. This topic provides insights into the cognitive complexity, social structures, and spiritual beliefs of early humans. Unlike geological or lithic studies, art research emphasizes the creative and communicative dimensions of the ancient human experience across various continents.

27. (D) Antiquity, significance, and distribution

The academic study of prehistoric art requires a structured approach to understand its role in human history. Researchers focus on three primary aspects: the antiquity of the art to establish its age, the significance of the motifs to interpret their potential meanings, and the distribution of sites to map geographical spread. This comprehensive analysis helps archaeologists reconstruct the cultural and cognitive landscapes of early humans, rather than focusing solely on economic factors or chemical preservation.

28. (B) 4, 2, 3, 1

The geological time scale organizes Earth's history into a chronological sequence of epochs. Starting from the oldest relevant epoch for human prehistory, the Miocene is followed by the Pliocene. The sequence then moves into the Quaternary Period with the Pleistocene epoch, which is characterized by major glaciations. Finally, the Holocene is the most recent and current epoch. Correctly ordering these stages is essential for understanding the environmental context in which hominin evolution and cultural development occurred.

29. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Lithic technology progressed from simple to complex forms throughout the Stone Age. Flake and blade-based industries represent a more advanced stage of tool production compared to the earlier, simpler Oldowan choppers. Simultaneously, the Acheulian industry is famously defined by the manufacture of large bifacial tools, such as the characteristic hand axe. Both statements accurately describe key phases and technological markers in the development of prehistoric stone tools, reflecting the increasing cognitive abilities of early humans.

30. (D) Modern humans, extinct relatives, and ancestors

In the field of paleoanthropology, the term hominin has a specific scientific definition. It refers to the group consisting of modern humans, as well as all our extinct ancestors and relatives that lived after the evolutionary split from the

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chimpanzee lineage. This includes various species of Ardipithecus, Australopithecus, and earlier members of the genus Homo. Understanding the diversity within this category is essential for tracing the biological and behavioral evolution that eventually led to Homo sapiens.

31. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-1, S-3

Regional terminologies for the Palaeolithic vary based on archaeological traditions. Africa uses the sequence of Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age. Europe and West Asia both follow the tripartite division of Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic. In China, researchers often use more general terms to describe Palaeolithic cultural developments. Matching these terms to their respective regions is crucial for students of prehistory to correctly interpret scientific literature and understand global patterns of technological and cultural change.

32. (B) Use reversals in Earth's magnetic field for chronology

Paleomagnetism is a vital dating technique in prehistoric research. The primary focus of studying paleomagnetic records is to utilize the historical reversals of the Earth's magnetic field to establish a reliable chronology for geological and archaeological sites. These polarity changes are recorded in minerals within rocks and sediments. By matching local magnetic signatures with the known global geomagnetic polarity time scale, researchers can determine the age of deposits that contain hominin fossils or stone tool remains.

33. (B) Tertiary

The Cenozoic Era is divided into major geological periods that provide the framework for studying human evolution. The Tertiary Period immediately precedes the Quaternary Period in this sequence. The Late Tertiary, which includes the Miocene and Pliocene epochs, saw the emergence of the first hominin ancestors. The transition to the Quaternary Period, beginning with the Pleistocene, marks a significant phase of climatic change and the diversification of the genus Homo throughout various global regions.

34. (A) Lithic technologies

When discussing the evolution of early humans, the term cultural backdrop primarily refers to the development and progression of stone tool making. This involves the study of various lithic technologies, such as the Oldowan and Acheulian industries. These material remains provide the most consistent and durable evidence of hominin behavior, cognitive skills, and environmental adaptation. By examining how stone tool production changed over time, archaeologists can reconstruct the cultural environment that accompanied human biological evolution.

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35. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 5

The study of human beginnings involves several core topics, including the geological time scale, biological evolution, and the development of stone implements. Prehistoric art is also a significant area of inquiry, providing evidence of early symbolic behavior. However, the study of Palaeolithic cultures in Australia is generally not included in the primary curriculum of early human beginnings, as human arrival there occurred much later than the foundational developments in Africa, Europe, West Asia, and East Asia.

36. (D) Pliocene and Pleistocene

The transition from the genus Australopithecus to the genus Homo is one of the most significant events in human evolution. This process primarily occurred across the boundary of the Pliocene and Pleistocene epochs. Fossil evidence shows that Australopiths flourished during the Pliocene, while the earliest members of the genus Homo appeared near the start of the Pleistocene. A researcher focusing on this transition would analyze geological deposits and environmental changes associated with these two specific epochs.

37. (C) Geographical spread across continents and sites

In the context of prehistoric art studies, the term distribution refers specifically to the geographical spread of art sites across different continents and regions. Researchers map where cave paintings, engravings, and portable art objects have been discovered to identify patterns of human occupation and cultural exchange. Understanding this spatial distribution is essential for determining how symbolic behaviors emerged and spread among ancient populations, as well as

identifying regional styles and traditions within the broader prehistoric world.

38. (B) Quaternary - Holocene

The geological time scale organizes Earth's history into periods which are further subdivided into epochs. Within this framework, the Quaternary Period is composed of two main epochs: the Pleistocene and the Holocene. The Holocene is the current epoch, representing the post-glacial period that began approximately 11,700 years ago. Conversely, epochs like the Pliocene and Miocene belong to the Tertiary Period. Correctly identifying these pairs is fundamental for establishing the chronological context of human evolutionary history.

39. (D) Pliocene and Pleistocene

The term Plio-Pleistocene is frequently used in paleoanthropology to describe the time interval that spans the transition between the Pliocene and the Pleistocene epochs. This period is of immense importance as it encompasses the final stages of Australopith evolution and the initial emergence and diversification of the genus Homo. By grouping these two epochs, researchers can discuss evolutionary trends and environmental changes that occurred continuously across this major geological boundary, rather than viewing them as isolated events.

40. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Studying human origins requires an integrated perspective because the process was multifaceted, involving complex interactions between biology, environment, and culture. The biological dimension tracks physical changes, the geological dimension provides the environmental and chronological context, and the cultural dimension follows technological innovations. These elements did not evolve in isolation; instead, they influenced each other throughout our history. Therefore, understanding all three dimensions is essential for a comprehensive view of how our ancestors adapted and survived.

41. (C) Upper Palaeolithic

The Upper Palaeolithic in Europe represents a period of significant cultural intensification. This stage is primarily characterized by the development of advanced blade technologies, where long, thin flakes were struck from prepared cores to create a wide variety of specialized tools. Additionally, this era saw a dramatic proliferation of prehistoric art, including intricate cave paintings and portable sculptures. These developments indicate heightened cognitive abilities and more complex social and symbolic behaviors among the modern human populations of the time.

42. (A) The study includes Palaeolithic cultures in South East Asia.

Prehistory is a global field that examines the development of early humans across multiple continents. A key component of this study is the investigation of Palaeolithic cultural developments in South East Asia, which offers unique insights into regional human adaptations. While biological evolution is crucial, it is not the exclusive focus. Furthermore, the Holocene belongs to the Quaternary, not the Tertiary, and the Oldowan is a core-and-flake industry, highlighting the importance of regional breadth in prehistoric research.

43. (D) Mousterian

Within the study of prehistoric stone tool traditions, several major industries are recognized as key markers of cultural development. The Oldowan and Acheulian represent the earliest stages of tool making. Flake and blade-based industries characterize the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic periods. However, while the Mousterian is a well-known Middle Palaeolithic industry associated with Neanderthals, it is sometimes excluded from introductory summaries that focus on the primary, broader technological categories used to define the evolution of lithic implements.

44. (B) Age and origin in time

When researchers study the antiquity of prehistoric art, their primary concern is determining its age and origin in time. Establishing a chronometric date for paintings, engravings, or sculptures is essential for placing these creative works within the broader timeline of human evolution. Understanding when symbolic behavior first appeared allows archaeologists to correlate artistic development with biological changes in the brain and shifts

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in social organization, providing a temporal framework for the emergence of human creativity.

45. (A) 1 and 2 only

The study of prehistory is built upon several different frameworks. The geological and climatic framework specifically involves concepts that help establish the timeline and environmental conditions of the past. These include the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, which marks a significant transition in Earth's history, and Marine Isotopic Stages, which provide data on past global climates. While the Acheulian industry and hominin ancestors are vital topics, they belong to the cultural and biological dimensions of prehistory, respectively.

46. (D) Current geological epoch, following the Pleistocene

The Holocene is the most recent epoch of the Quaternary Period in the geological time scale. It began approximately 11,700 years ago, marking the end of the last major glacial period of the Pleistocene. This epoch is characterized by a relatively stable and warmer global climate, which facilitated the development of modern human societies and eventually agriculture. It is the time period in which we currently live, following the significant environmental fluctuations that defined the preceding Pleistocene epoch.

47. (A) Later Stone Age

The archaeological sequence of Africa follows a unique terminological structure. In this framework, the Later Stone Age is the period that follows the Middle Stone Age. The Later Stone Age is characterized by the widespread use of microlithic technology, a greater diversity of organic tools made from bone and shell, and increased evidence of symbolic behavior. This stage is chronologically and technologically comparable to the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe, representing the final phase of the African Stone Age.

48. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Archaeological terminology varies by region, but researchers often establish equivalents to facilitate global comparisons. In African prehistory, the Early Stone Age covers the same general cultural and chronological ground as the European Lower Palaeolithic, including industries like the Oldowan and Acheulian. Similarly, the Late Stone Age in Africa is viewed as the equivalent of Europe's Upper Palaeolithic, both representing advanced stone tool technologies and symbolic behaviors. These correspondences are essential for understanding human cultural development on a global scale.

49. (B) Primary products are flakes or blades struck from a core.

Lithic technology is categorized by the methods used to produce tools. A flake and blade-based industry is one where the primary intended products are the flakes or standardized blades that are struck from a prepared stone core. This represents a significant technological shift from earlier industries, such as the Oldowan, where the core itself was often the primary tool. Blade production is particularly efficient, providing more cutting edge per volume of raw material, and is a hallmark of advanced Palaeolithic cultures.

50. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

The study of prehistory is organized into several distinct fields that focus on different types of evidence. Important fossil records are central to understanding the main stages of human evolution. The evolution of stone implements constitutes the cultural backdrop of our history. The study of flora and fauna within deposits falls under biostratigraphy. Finally, Marine Isotopic Stages provide the data needed to analyze the climatic changes of the Pleistocene. Matching these concepts is fundamental to mastering the multidisciplinary nature of prehistoric research.

51. (C) Late Miocene and Pliocene

The earliest hominins, often referred to as Pre-Australopiths, appeared in the fossil record during the Late Miocene and the subsequent Pliocene epoch. These early ancestors, such as Sahelanthropus and Ardipithecus, represent the initial stages of the human lineage following the split from the common ancestor shared with chimpanzees. Their appearance marks the biological beginning of the hominin record, occurring several million years before

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the emergence of the genus Homo and the widespread use of stone tool technology.

52. (D) Africa - Lower Palaeolithic

Terminology for prehistoric periods is specific to certain geographic regions. In Africa, the earliest phase of the Stone Age is termed the Early Stone Age, not the Lower Palaeolithic. The term Lower Palaeolithic is primarily used in Europe and West Asia to describe a similar technological stage. Correctly identifying these regional terms, such as the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe and the Middle Palaeolithic in West Asia, is essential for accurately communicating and understanding the global archaeological record of early humans.

53. (C) The entire span of genus Homo evolution

The Quaternary Period is the most recent division of the geological time scale and is of paramount importance to the study of human history. This period, which began approximately 2.6 million years ago, encompasses the entire span of the evolution of the genus Homo. It includes the development of early human species, the global dispersal of Homo sapiens, and the emergence of complex cultural and technological traditions. Consequently, the Quaternary provides the primary geological context for all major human evolutionary milestones.

54. (B) Earliest phase of the cultural backdrop

The Oldowan industry is recognized as the first widespread and formal tradition of stone tool making in the archaeological record. Because it represents the initial stage of hominin technological behavior, discovering Oldowan tools allows an archaeologist to study the earliest phase of the cultural backdrop of human evolution. These simple core and flake tools provide a baseline for understanding the cognitive abilities and adaptive strategies of early ancestors, such as Homo habilis, during the late Pliocene and early Pleistocene epochs.

55. (C) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Prehistoric study is a comprehensive field covering multiple dimensions of human history. It includes biological evolution from Pre-Australopiths to the genus Homo, and climatic analysis using Marine Isotopic Stages. It also involves comparing regional terminologies, such as those used in Africa and Europe, and interpreting the significance of prehistoric art. However, the study is not limited to only the Oldowan industry; it encompasses the entire progression of lithic technologies, including the Acheulian and later flake and blade-based traditions.

56. (A) Biological dimension

The study of human beginnings is organized into three main dimensions: geological, biological, and cultural. The biological dimension specifically focuses on the physical evolution of the human species. This involves tracing the main stages of evolution through the analysis of important fossil records found in various parts of the world. By examining skeletal changes over time, researchers can understand how biological adaptations, such as bipedalism and increased brain size, occurred and how different hominin species are related within the human family tree.

57. (C) Part of the broader Palaeolithic world context

The study of Palaeolithic cultural developments in China and South East Asia emphasizes that these regions are integral to the global story of human prehistory. While these areas may have unique tool traditions or local environmental adaptations, they are still part of the broader Palaeolithic world context. Research in these regions helps archaeologists understand the diversity of human behavior and the various ways early hominins adapted to different landscapes outside of the more frequently studied areas like Africa and Europe.

58. (A) Critical time for the genus Homo emergence

The Plio-Pleistocene boundary, occurring approximately 2.6 million years ago, is a major landmark in the study of human prehistory. This transition is highly significant because it represents a critical time for the emergence and early diversification of the genus Homo. During this period, significant climatic cooling occurred, which is believed to have influenced the evolutionary pressures leading to larger brain sizes and the widespread adoption of stone tool technology, marking a fundamental shift in the hominin lineage.

59. (D) Lithic technologies

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The progression from the simple choppers of the Oldowan industry to the more complex and symmetrical hand axes of the Acheulian represents a major advancement in human prehistory. This transition is a key marker in the development of lithic technologies. It demonstrates an increase in cognitive planning, manual dexterity, and the ability of early humans to standardize tool forms across large geographical areas. By studying these changes, researchers can trace the growing technical skills and adaptive capabilities of our ancient ancestors.

60. (B) Pleistocene - Major climatic changes

The Quaternary Period is defined by its two constituent epochs, each with distinct features. The Pleistocene is famously characterized by major climatic changes, including several cycles of intense glaciation and warmer interglacial periods. These environmental fluctuations played a decisive role in shaping the evolution and migration of early humans. Conversely, the Pliocene precedes the Quaternary, and the Holocene is the stable post-glacial epoch. Correctly identifying the Pleistocene's climatic instability is essential for understanding the context of hominin adaptation.

61. (C) Indicators for past environment reconstruction

The study of flora and fauna from the Pleistocene epoch provides essential data for researchers. These biological remains serve as primary indicators for the reconstruction of past environments. Different species of plants and animals have specific climatic requirements, so their presence in the fossil record allows scientists to infer temperature, moisture levels, and vegetation types of ancient landscapes. This environmental context is crucial for understanding the habitats where early humans lived and the resources that were available to them.

62. (D) Stone

In archaeological and prehistoric studies, the term lithic is derived from the Greek word for stone. Therefore, when researchers refer to lithic technologies, they are specifically discussing the methods and techniques ancient humans used to create tools from stone. Stone was the most durable material used by early hominins, and its survival in the archaeological record provides the primary evidence for studying the cultural and technological development of human ancestors over millions of years, from simple choppers to complex blades.

63. (A) West Asia

The terminological framework used to organize the Palaeolithic varies by region. The standard three-fold division—consisting of the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic—was originally developed in Europe. This same classification system is also traditionally applied to the archaeological record of West Asia. This consistency allows researchers to more easily compare technological developments and chronological sequences between these two neighboring regions, even though other parts of the world, like Africa, utilize different terminologies like the Stone Age system.

64. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The evolution of stone tools follows a clear chronological and technological progression. The Oldowan industry is the earliest known tradition and is older than the subsequent Acheulian industry. Technologically, the Acheulian represents a significant advancement, as it is characterized by more complex and standardized tool forms, most notably the bifacial hand axe. Both statements accurately reflect the archaeological evidence, showing how early human ancestors developed greater cognitive and manual skills to create more sophisticated implements over hundreds of thousands of years.

65. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Establishing a reliable timeline is fundamental to prehistoric research, and paleomagnetic records are essential for this task. The Earth's magnetic field periodically reverses its polarity, and these changes are permanently recorded in the minerals of forming rocks and sediments. Because these reversals occur globally and at specific times, they serve as crucial correlation markers that allow scientists to date geological layers across different continents. This scientific fact provides a strong foundation for using paleomagnetism

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as a primary tool for establishing long-term chronologies.

66. (A) Ritual, symbolic, or narrative meanings

The study of prehistoric art goes beyond mere description to explore the deeper implications of creative expression. When focusing on the significance of such art, a researcher investigates its potential ritual, symbolic, or narrative meanings within ancient societies. This involves analyzing the motifs, their placement in caves, and their association with other archaeological remains to infer what these images might have communicated about the beliefs, social structures, or spiritual lives of the prehistoric people who created them.

67. (C) Australopiths

The group known as Australopiths, whose name literally translates to southern ape, represents a crucial stage in human evolution. These hominins lived primarily during the Pliocene and early Pleistocene epochs and are known for being among the first to exhibit habitual bipedalism while retaining some ancestral ape-like features. Fossil evidence of various Australopith species has provided essential insights into the biological changes that occurred in the human lineage before the emergence and widespread dominance of the genus Homo.

68. (D) Middle Palaeolithic

Archaeologists use different regional terminologies to describe similar cultural stages in human prehistory. The Middle Stone Age is the term used in Africa for the period characterized by the development of sophisticated flake-based technologies from prepared cores. This African period is broadly contemporary with the Middle Palaeolithic of Europe, which is famously associated with Neanderthals and similar tool traditions. Recognizing this correspondence is vital for researchers attempting to correlate human technological and behavioral developments across the Old World during the Pleistocene.

69. (C) Pleistocene

The geological time scale is structured into periods and epochs that define different spans of Earth's history. The Late Tertiary period is composed of two specific epochs: the Miocene and the Pliocene. The Pleistocene epoch, however, belongs to the subsequent Quaternary Period. The transition from the Pliocene to the Pleistocene marks the boundary between the Tertiary and the Quaternary. Understanding these divisions is necessary for correctly dating the geological context in which early hominin ancestors first appeared and later diversified.

70. (A) 1 and 4 only

Prehistoric terminology varies across different continents and regions. It is correct that the Early Stone Age in Africa is considered the equivalent of the Lower Palaeolithic in Europe. Furthermore, blade-based industries are indeed characteristic of the later stages of the Palaeolithic, such as the Upper Palaeolithic and the Late Stone Age. However, the term Upper Palaeolithic is not typically used for the African sequence, and West Asia generally follows the European terminology, not the African system of Stone Ages.

71. (D) Biological dimension of prehistory

Prehistory is studied through several thematic lenses to organize the vast amount of evidence. The investigation of the physical changes in our ancestors, specifically the evolutionary sequence from Pre-Australopiths to Australopiths and finally to the genus Homo, falls directly under the biological dimension. This field utilizes fossil remains to track skeletal developments, such as brain enlargement and changes in locomotion, providing the physical evidence for how our species emerged and changed over millions of years of evolutionary history.

72. (A) Comparative approach across continents

When researchers discuss Palaeolithic cultural development in a world context, they are advocating for a comparative approach that looks at evidence from across different continents. Rather than focusing on a single region, this perspective seeks to identify both universal patterns and unique regional variations in human behavior and technology. By comparing sequences in Africa, Europe, Asia, and other areas, archaeologists can better understand the global nature of human adaptation and the diverse ways our ancestors solved environmental challenges.

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73. (C) Flake-based Middle Palaeolithic industries

The progression of stone tool technology follows a recognizable sequence in the archaeological record. The Acheulian industry, known for its large bifacial hand axes, is typically succeeded by flake-based industries associated with the Middle Palaeolithic in Europe and West Asia, or the Middle Stone Age in Africa. This transition marks a shift in focus from producing tools directly from cores to utilizing the flakes struck from prepared cores, indicating more complex flintknapping techniques and a greater variety of specialized tools.

74. (A) Geological epoch beginning after the Ice Age

The Holocene is defined as the current geological epoch, which began approximately 11,700 years ago. It marks the end of the last major glacial period of the Pleistocene, often referred to as the Ice Age. The Holocene is characterized by a relatively stable, warmer climate and the rise of modern human civilizations. It is a subdivision of the Quaternary Period, representing the environmental context for the development of agriculture, permanent settlements, and the eventual rise of recorded history.

75. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

Key terms in prehistory refer to specific tool industries or geological timeframes. The Oldowan is recognized as the earliest stone tool industry, consisting of simple pebbles. The Acheulian is defined by its characteristic bifacial hand axes. The Upper Palaeolithic is marked by advanced blade and burin production. Finally, the Pleistocene is the geological epoch famous for major climatic fluctuations. Correctly matching these terms is essential for understanding the technological and environmental milestones that defined the long course of human evolution.

76. (B) Quaternary includes Miocene and Pliocene.

The structure of the geological time scale is a fundamental part of prehistoric studies. It is incorrect to state that the Quaternary includes the Miocene and Pliocene; these two epochs actually belong to the Late Tertiary period. The Quaternary period is composed of the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs. All other statements, such as the multidimensional nature of human origins, the importance of hominin fossils, and the study of art's antiquity, are accurate reflections of the current academic focus in prehistory.

77. (C) Major climatic changes of the Pleistocene

Understanding the environment is crucial for interpreting how early humans evolved and adapted. A student interested in the environmental context would find the study of major climatic changes during the Pleistocene to be the most relevant topic. These changes, including the cycles of ice ages and warmer periods, reshaped landscapes, influenced the availability of food and water, and created the selective pressures that drove biological and cultural evolution. This topic provides the backdrop for all other aspects of prehistoric research.

78. (D) Palaeolithic cultural development

While Africa is often the focus for early biological evolution, the study of human history expands globally when examining cultural progress. Regions such as Africa, Europe, West Asia, China, and South East Asia are all major focus areas for documenting Palaeolithic cultural development. By studying the stone tools and behavioral evidence from these diverse areas, archaeologists can reconstruct the global history of human technology and adaptation, identifying how different populations responded to their unique regional environments over hundreds of thousands of years.

79. (A) Upper Palaeolithic / Late Stone Age

Technological progress in prehistory is often marked by the primary method used to create stone tools. The development of blade-based industries is a significant technological hallmark associated with the later stages of the Palaeolithic. In Europe and West Asia, this is known as the Upper Palaeolithic, while in Africa, it is termed the Late Stone Age. This stage represents a shift toward more efficient tool production, creating a greater variety of specialized implements for hunting, processing, and artistic activities.

80. (A) 1, 2, and 4 only

The cultural development of prehistory is primarily studied through the lens of stone tool industries and their regional manifestations. The Oldowan industry, the Late Stone Age of Africa,

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and the Upper Palaeolithic of Europe are all central topics in this cultural dimension. While Australopiths, Homo, and Pleistocene flora and fauna are vital to the study of prehistory as a whole, they belong specifically to the biological and environmental dimensions, respectively, rather than the core study of cultural and technological progression.

81. (B) The Palaeolithic

The Stone Age is divided into several major periods based on technological developments. The Palaeolithic, or Old Stone Age, is the first and longest of these periods, accounting for approximately the first two-thirds of human technological history. It is characterized by the use of flaked stone tools, from simple choppers to complex blades. This period covers the vast majority of human evolution, from the earliest tool-using ancestors until the transition to the Mesolithic and Neolithic at the end of the Pleistocene.

82. (A) Past global ice volume and sea-levels

Marine Isotopic Stages are a critical tool for reconstructing ancient environments. By analyzing the ratios of oxygen isotopes in the shells of marine organisms found in deep-sea sediment cores, researchers can determine past global ice volume and sea-level changes. Because more heavy oxygen is left in the ocean when water is trapped in glaciers, these stages provide a high-resolution record of global temperature fluctuations. This information helps scientists understand the climatic context that influenced human evolution and migration patterns.

83. (C) Early, Middle, Late Stone Age

Archaeologists use a specific three-fold division to describe the cultural sequence of the Stone Age in Africa. This system consists of the Early Stone Age, the Middle Stone Age, and the Late Stone Age. Each period is defined by characteristic technological developments, such as the bifacial tools of the Early Stone Age or the microliths of the Late Stone Age. This regional terminology is distinct from the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic labels used in Europe and West Asia.

84. (D) Homo sapiens

In the study of prehistory, researchers investigate how our species became globally distributed. The various hypotheses on modern human dispersal specifically attempt to explain the origins and subsequent spread of Homo sapiens from Africa into other parts of the world. These models, such as the Out of Africa theory, utilize archaeological, genetic, and fossil evidence to determine the timing, routes, and environmental factors that allowed modern humans to successfully populate diverse environments across the globe and replace other hominin species.

85. (C) 3, 2, 1, 4

The human fossil record reveals a clear chronological sequence of ancestral groups. Pre-Australopiths are the oldest, appearing several million years ago. They are followed in the record by the various species of Australopiths, who exhibited more definite bipedal traits. The genus Homo appeared later, bringing more significant cognitive and technological developments. Finally, modern humans are the most recent stage in this lineage. Arranging these groups correctly is fundamental for understanding the long-term biological progression that defines our evolutionary history.

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86. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

Prehistoric research has expanded to provide a truly global perspective. It is true that Palaeolithic developments in China and South East Asia are now recognized as distinct and important areas of study that offer unique insights into human adaptation. However, the cultural sequence in East Asia does not perfectly mirror the sequence found in Europe. Regional variations in raw materials, environment, and social groups led to different technological trajectories, making the study of these areas essential for a complete understanding of prehistory.

87. (D) Economic

The study of early human history is built upon three primary, integrated dimensions. The geological dimension provides the chronological and environmental framework; the biological dimension focuses on physical evolution and the fossil record; and the cultural dimension examines the development of technology and behavior through stone tools. While economics is

a vital part of modern social science, it is generally not considered one of the three foundational dimensions used to organize the initial study of human beginnings and prehistory.

88. (A) Evolution of early members of genus Homo

The transition from the Pliocene to the Pleistocene epoch, occurring around 2.6 million years ago, is one of the most significant periods in the history of life on Earth. This timeframe is particularly critical for studying the evolution of the earliest members of the genus Homo. It coincides with major environmental shifts and the first appearance of the Oldowan tool industry. Research focusing on this boundary helps explain how ancestral populations adapted to new ecological pressures through both biological and cultural innovations.

89. (C) Bifacially worked tools like hand axes

The transition from the Oldowan to the Acheulian industry represents a major technological leap for early humans. While the Oldowan is characterized by simple flakes and choppers, the Acheulian is defined by the production of standardized, bifacially worked tools, most notably the hand axe. This process involves shaping both sides of a stone core to create a symmetrical, multipurpose tool. The presence of these bifaces indicates increased cognitive foresight, manual dexterity, and a refined ability to plan complex tool forms.

90. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Lithic technology became significantly more efficient and specialized over time. The technology of the Upper Palaeolithic is considered more advanced than the preceding Middle Palaeolithic because it moved toward the systematic production of standardized blades. These long, thin flakes provided a much larger amount of sharp cutting edge per pound of raw material and could be further modified into a wide variety of specialized tools, such as burins and scrapers. This technological shift facilitated more complex subsistence and artistic activities.

91. (B) Early Pre-Australopiths and Australopiths

The geological time scale provides the context for the earliest phases of our lineage. The Late Tertiary period, which includes the Miocene and Pliocene epochs, is the timeframe during which the first hominin ancestors emerged. This period saw the appearance of Pre-Australopiths and the subsequent flourishing of various Australopith species. These groups represent the biological foundations of the hominin line before the emergence of the genus Homo and the widespread development of complex stone tool technologies in the following Quaternary period.

92. (B) Purpose and meaning

Prehistoric art is not merely an aesthetic object but a window into the ancient mind. The study of its significance involves an inquiry into its potential purpose and meaning within its original cultural context. Researchers explore whether these images were part of hunting magic, ritual practices, storytelling, or social signaling. By analyzing the symbols and their placement, archaeologists attempt to reconstruct the complex symbolic and cognitive lives of the prehistoric people who created these durable expressions of their worldview.

93. (C) Europe

Studying Palaeolithic cultural development in a world context requires researchers to look beyond regional boundaries and compare sequences across the Old World. A common and essential comparison is between the sequences found in Africa and those in Europe. While Africa provides the longest record of human technology, the European record offers detailed evidence of later Palaeolithic developments, including advanced blade tools and prehistoric art. Comparing these two regions allows archaeologists to identify global trends and local variations in human behavioral evolution.

94. (C) West Asia – Lower Palaeolithic

Terminology for the Stone Age is often specific to certain geographic regions based on historical research traditions. West Asia typically follows the same classification system used in Europe, which includes the terms Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic. Therefore, identifying West Asia with the Lower Palaeolithic is a correct application of regional terminology. Conversely, Africa uses the Stone Age system, and China uses more general Palaeolithic descriptions. Understanding these pairings is essential for

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accurately navigating global archaeological literature and research.

95. (C) 1, 2, and 3 only

Establishing the context of the human past relies on several scientific disciplines that provide chronological and environmental data. Paleomagnetic records, Marine Isotopic Stages, and biostratigraphy are all primary methods used to understand the timeline and climate of prehistoric periods. While the Acheulian industry is a major part of the prehistoric record, it belongs to the cultural dimension rather than the geological and environmental framework used to build the overarching chronological structure within which cultural events are placed.

96. (C) Ice Age

The Pleistocene epoch is famously and informally known as the Ice Age. This period was characterized by repeated cycles of massive glaciations, during which enormous ice sheets covered large portions of the Earth's northern hemisphere. These cold periods were separated by warmer interglacials. These dramatic environmental fluctuations created significant selective pressures that influenced the physical and cultural evolution of our hominin ancestors, driving adaptations in brain size, tool use, and migration patterns throughout the majority of the Quaternary.

97. (C) Oldowan

Stone tool industries are identified by their characteristic manufacturing techniques and final tool forms. An industry consisting of simple choppers and flakes, made by striking a pebble with a hammerstone without further refinement into bifaces or blades, is classified as Oldowan. This represents the most basic level of stone tool technology and is the earliest tradition found in the archaeological record. It is distinct from the more complex Acheulian, which features hand axes, and the later blade-based industries of the Upper Palaeolithic.

98. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Different geological epochs are associated with specific milestones in human history. The Late Miocene saw the emergence of the first Pre-Australopiths. During the Pliocene, various species of Australopiths flourished across Africa. The Pleistocene followed, marked by major climatic fluctuations and the significant evolution and diversification of the genus Homo. Finally, the Holocene represents the current post-glacial epoch. Matching these epochs to their key developments provides a clear chronological overview of the integrated story of human biological and environmental evolution.

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99. (B) Use of Stone Age vs. Palaeolithic

While the technological stages of human history are similar globally, the labels used to describe them vary by region. The primary difference between the African and European terminology is the choice of broad terms. African archaeology typically uses the sequence of Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age. European archaeology traditionally uses the terms Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic. These regional systems describe comparable periods of time and similar levels of technological advancement, but reflect different traditions in the history of archaeological research.

100. (D) Primates of the Eocene

The study of human evolution focuses on the lineage that appeared after the split from our common ancestor with modern apes. This includes Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and early members of the genus Homo, all of whom lived during the Late Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene epochs. However, primates of the Eocene lived tens of millions of years earlier and are part of the much broader, deeper history of primate evolution. They are not considered part of the specific hominin ancestor groups studied in the context of human prehistory.

101. (C) Geographic spread of art sites globally

In the study of prehistoric art, the term distribution refers specifically to where art sites are located across the world. By mapping the geographic spread of cave paintings, rock engravings, and portable art, researchers can identify which regions were occupied by creative populations and how artistic traditions moved or developed independently. This spatial data helps archaeologists understand the environmental conditions that supported these cultures and the potential social networks that connected

different groups of prehistoric people across vast distances.

102. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The Plio-Pleistocene boundary is indeed a significant marker in the geological time scale, as it signifies a period of major climatic change and the emergence of the genus Homo. However, paleomagnetic records are not used to study the diet of ancient animals; instead, they document historical reversals in the Earth's magnetic field to provide a chronological framework for dating. Dietary studies typically involve stable isotope analysis or the examination of wear patterns on fossilized teeth and bones.

103. (C) Cultural dimension of prehistory

Human prehistory is organized into different areas of study to better understand the past. The progression of stone implements, from the simple core-and-flake tools of the Oldowan to the refined and standardized blade technologies of later periods, is a central theme of the cultural dimension. This dimension explores how early humans used their cognitive abilities to manipulate their environment and develop increasingly complex technologies. These material remains serve as the primary record of ancient human behavior, creativity, and technical skill.

104. (D) Holocene

The Quaternary Period is the most recent division of geological time, and it is divided into two primary epochs. The Pleistocene is the earlier epoch, known for its repeated glaciations. The Holocene is the final and current epoch of the Quaternary, which began approximately 11,700 years ago after the end of the last major ice age. Understanding this sequence is fundamental to prehistory, as it provides the environmental context for the entire span of human evolution and the subsequent rise of civilizations.

105. (B) 1, 2, 4, and 5

The evolution of stone tool technology is categorized into several major stages. The Oldowan and Acheulian represent the earliest core-based traditions. Later, technological shifts led to the emergence of flake-based industries and eventually highly standardized blade-based industries. These four categories are the primary lithic technologies used to define the cultural progression of the Palaeolithic. While specific industries like the Solutrean exist, they are regional subdivisions rather than the broad, foundational technological categories used to describe the overarching development of prehistoric stone tool implements.

106. (B) Hypotheses on modern human dispersal

Research that focuses on the timing and routes of Homo sapiens as they moved out of Africa to populate the rest of the world falls under the topic of hypotheses on modern human dispersal. This area of study is essential for understanding how our species achieved a global distribution and adapted to a wide range of diverse environments. It integrates evidence from genetics, skeletal remains, and archaeological tool kits to reconstruct the migratory history and evolutionary success of modern humans.

107. (C) Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)

Reconstructing the environmental history of the Pleistocene is vital for understanding the selective pressures that shaped our ancestors. The primary method used to study these climatic fluctuations is the analysis of Marine Isotopic Stages. By measuring oxygen isotope ratios in marine sediments, scientists can track changes in global ice volume and ocean temperatures over millions of years. This data provides a high-resolution chronological record of glacial and interglacial cycles, allowing researchers to correlate biological and cultural changes with specific environmental shifts.

108. (B) Europe and West Asia

The classification of the Palaeolithic into Lower, Middle, and Upper stages is a standard terminological framework used in certain parts of the world. Specifically, the term Middle Palaeolithic is used to describe the cultural stage characterized by prepared-core flake technologies in both Europe and West Asia. This period is often associated with Neanderthals in Europe and diverse hominin populations in West Asia. While similar technological stages exist in Africa, they are referred to by different names, such as the Middle Stone Age.

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109. (B) Development of material stone culture

In the study of prehistory, the cultural backdrop refers specifically to the long-term progression of material stone culture. Because stone tools are the most durable and frequently found artifacts from the ancient past, they provide the primary evidence for studying the technological and cognitive development of early humans. By analyzing how lithic implements changed from simple choppers to complex blades, archaeologists can reconstruct the behavioral shifts and adaptive strategies that accompanied the biological evolution of the hominin lineage.

110. (B) Hominins pre-dating Australopithecus

Paleoanthropologists use specific categories to organize the diverse array of ancestral human fossils. The term Pre-Australopiths refers to the earliest known hominins that lived before the appearance of the genus Australopithecus. These groups, such as Sahelanthropus tchadensis and Orrorin tugenensis, lived during the Late Miocene and Early Pliocene epochs. They represent the initial stages of the hominin lineage shortly after the divergence from our last common ancestor with apes, exhibiting the very first signs of bipedalism.

111. (C) Late Tertiary and Quaternary

The later part of Earth's history is organized into periods and epochs that are essential for studying human prehistory. The Late Tertiary period is subdivided into the Miocene and Pliocene epochs, where the earliest hominin ancestors first appeared. This is followed by the Quaternary period, which consists of the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs, covering the evolution of the genus Homo and the global spread of modern humans. Together, these two geological periods provide the temporal framework for the entire story of human beginnings.

112. (B) Biostratigraphy

Biostratigraphy is a scientific method used to understand the chronological sequence of geological layers by examining their biological content. Researchers study the succession of fossilized plants and animals to determine the relative age of different strata and to reconstruct past environments. Because certain species only lived during specific time intervals, their presence allows scientists to correlate layers across different sites. This field is particularly important for dating hominin fossil sites and understanding the ecological conditions that influenced human evolution.

113. (C) Oldowan -> Acheulian -> Blade industries

The archaeological record shows a clear technological progression in the production of stone tools over millions of years. This sequence begins with the Oldowan industry, characterized by simple core and flake tools. It is followed by the Acheulian industry, which introduced more complex bifacial tools like hand axes. Finally, later Palaeolithic stages saw the emergence of advanced blade industries, which focused on producing thin, standardized tools from prepared cores. This order reflects the increasing cognitive and technical skills of our ancestors.

114. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

While Africa is the birthplace of the human lineage, the study of prehistory is global in scope. It is incorrect to say that prehistory is only concerned with African cultural developments. Instead, it encompasses the study of ancient humans across the Old World, including major developments in Europe, West Asia, China, and South East Asia. Each of these regions provides unique archaeological evidence that contributes to our understanding of how various hominin populations adapted to diverse environments and developed different cultural traditions.

115. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Pleistocene epoch was a time of intense environmental instability, and understanding this climate is essential for interpreting human history. The repeated cycles of advancing and retreating glaciers created dramatic shifts in sea levels, vegetation patterns, and animal populations. These changes forced early hominins to adapt, migrate, or face extinction, thereby serving as a primary driver for biological and cultural evolution. Consequently, the study of Pleistocene climatic shifts provides a fundamental explanation for the observed patterns in the hominin fossil and archaeological records.

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116. (B) Pliocene or Early Pleistocene

Fossil remains are the primary evidence used to date ancient geological deposits through the principles of biostratigraphy. The genus Australopithecus is a key hominin group that flourished in Africa for several million years. Because fossils of various Australopith species are found in strata from these specific epochs, their presence would most likely date a deposit to the Pliocene or the Early Pleistocene. This timeframe is essential for studying the physical and behavioral adaptations that occurred before the emergence of the genus Homo.

117. (C) Africa

Archaeologists use different regional terminologies to describe the stages of human technological development. The system that divides the Palaeolithic into the Early Stone Age, Middle Stone Age, and Late Stone Age is specifically used in the context of African prehistory. This terminology was developed to reflect the unique cultural sequences found on the African continent, such as the emergence of the Oldowan and the shift to microlithic tools. It serves as the regional equivalent to the European Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic system.

118. (B) Great age

In the academic study of prehistoric art, the term antiquity refers specifically to its great age. Determining the antiquity of cave paintings, rock engravings, or portable sculptures involves using various dating methods to establish how many thousands of years ago they were created. Establishing this temporal framework is essential for understanding where art fits into the timeline of human cognitive and cultural evolution, allowing researchers to see when our ancestors first began to express themselves symbolically and creatively.

119. (C) Pliocene is part of the Quaternary period.

Correctly identifying the divisions of the geological time scale is essential for prehistoric research. It is inaccurate to state that the Pliocene is part of the Quaternary; instead, it belongs to the Late Tertiary period. The Quaternary period actually begins with the subsequent Pleistocene epoch. The other statements correctly identify the Holocene as the current epoch, the Pleistocene as a time of major climatic instability, and the Miocene as part of the Late Tertiary, reflecting the established framework of modern geochronology.

120. (A) 1, 2, and 4

Archaeological terminology is specific to different geographic regions and reflects their unique cultural histories. It is correct that Africa uses the terms Early Stone Age and Late Stone Age for its earliest and latest Palaeolithic phases. Similarly, Europe uses the term Lower Palaeolithic for its initial stage. However, West Asia does not use the term Middle Stone Age; instead, like Europe, it utilizes the term Middle Palaeolithic. Understanding these regional designations is fundamental for correctly interpreting global archaeological research and data.

121. (B) Pleistocene

The Pleistocene epoch is a major division of the Quaternary Period, lasting from about 2.6 million years ago until the beginning of the Holocene roughly 11,700 years ago. It is famous for being a time of massive environmental changes, characterized by repeated cycles of global cooling and the expansion of continental ice sheets, known as glaciations. These extreme climatic conditions played a crucial role in the evolution of the genus Homo, influencing biological adaptations and the development of increasingly complex cultural strategies for survival.

122. (C) Upper Palaeolithic

The history of stone tool technology is marked by significant transitions in manufacturing methods. One of the most important shifts was the move from flake-based industries, which utilized flakes from prepared cores, to blade-based industries. These blades were standardized, elongated flakes that provided a massive increase in cutting edge and could be made into many specialized tools. This technological transition is a primary marker for the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe and West Asia, signifying advanced cognitive and technical skills.

123. (B) Biological dimension

Prehistory is studied through several integrated dimensions to organize different types of information. The study of hominin ancestors,

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which involves analyzing fossil remains to track physical changes and evolutionary relationships, belongs to the biological dimension. This field examines skeletal evidence for bipedalism, brain enlargement, and changes in dental structure over millions of years. By tracing these biological developments from early Pre-Australopiths to modern humans, researchers can reconstruct the physical lineage that defines our species and its place in the natural world.

124. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Each cultural stage of the Palaeolithic is defined by its characteristic technology and behaviors. The Oldowan is known for simple pebble choppers, while the Acheulian features more complex bifacial hand axes. The Middle Palaeolithic is associated with sophisticated flake technologies from prepared cores, such as the Levallois technique. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic is marked by a proliferation of advanced blade tools and symbolic art. Matching these stages with their key characteristics is essential for understanding the technological and cognitive progression of early human ancestors.

125. (B) Biological evolution and Earth's history

Prehistory is a multidisciplinary field that seeks to understand the origins of our species by integrating different types of evidence. The strong link between human origin and the geological time scale highlights the profound relationship between biological evolution and Earth's history. By placing hominin fossils within specific geological epochs, researchers can correlate physical changes in our ancestors with global environmental shifts and tectonic events. This integrated approach allows scientists to see how the changing planet shaped the course of human development over millions of years.

126. (B) Prehistory

Prehistory is the comprehensive term used by scholars to describe the entire span of human existence that occurred before the development of writing systems and the beginning of recorded history. This vast period accounts for more than 99 percent of the human story, encompassing our biological evolution from early ancestors and the development of various cultural and technological traditions. Because there are no written records, researchers must rely on archaeological artifacts, skeletal remains, and environmental data to reconstruct this ancient past.

127. (B) Terminology: ESA/MSA/LSA vs. LP/MP/UP

While the general technological progression of early humans was similar in many parts of the world, the labels used to describe these stages vary by region. When comparing Africa and Europe, the primary difference is the terminology used for the Palaeolithic timeline. African archaeology uses the Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age system. In contrast, Europe uses the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic framework. Recognizing these equivalent but distinct labels is essential for any comparative study of global prehistoric cultural development.

128. (A) Pleistocene is an epoch within Quaternary

The geological time scale is organized into hierarchical divisions to categorize Earth's history. Within this system, the Quaternary is a major period that encompasses the most recent 2.6 million years. This period is further subdivided into two distinct epochs. The Pleistocene is the earlier and much longer of these epochs, famously characterized by the Ice Age glaciations. It is followed by the current Holocene epoch. Therefore, the Pleistocene is correctly understood as an epoch that exists within the broader Quaternary Period.

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129. (B) Regional perspective on prehistoric adaptations

The study of Palaeolithic developments in China and South East Asia is crucial because it provides a regional perspective on how ancient humans adapted to diverse landscapes. While the African and European records are extensively studied, East Asia offers unique evidence of different tool traditions and environmental challenges. By examining this region, archaeologists can identify how hominin populations thrived in distinct ecological zones, contributing to a more complete and nuanced understanding of global human behavior and the various pathways taken during prehistoric cultural evolution.

130. (B) 1, 2, 3, and 5

The study of prehistoric beginnings is organized around several foundational topics. These include

the primary geological, biological, and cultural dimensions of our lineage, along with detailed research on hypotheses concerning modern human dispersal. Together, these areas provide a comprehensive framework for understanding how we emerged and spread. However, the study of Palaeolithic cultures in the Americas is typically excluded from this early framework because human migration to that continent occurred much later than the foundational developments in Africa and Eurasia.

131. (C) Paleontological

In the study of human evolution, different types of physical evidence are categorized by the scientific field they belong to. When researchers focus on important fossil records to understand the main stages of human physical development, they are utilizing paleontological evidence. Paleontology is the study of ancient life through fossilized remains, and in this context, it specifically examines hominin skeletons, teeth, and footprints. This evidence is vital for tracing the biological changes that occurred throughout the millions of years of our evolutionary history.

132. (C) The Upper Palaeolithic of Europe

To facilitate the study of human prehistory across different continents, archaeologists establish cultural and chronological equivalents between regional terminologies. In this comparative framework, the Late Stone Age of Africa is considered technologically and chronologically analogous to the Upper Palaeolithic of Europe. Both periods represent the final stage of the Palaeolithic, characterized by the use of advanced blade and microlithic technologies, a greater diversity of tools, and the widespread appearance of symbolic behavior and complex artistic expression among modern humans.

133. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Lithic industries are classified based on their characteristic manufacturing methods. It is incorrect to describe the Oldowan and Acheulian as flake and blade-based industries; instead, they are primarily core-based industries. In these early traditions, the main tools were often made by modifying a stone core. It is true, however, that the Acheulian industry is defined by its characteristic large cutting tools, specifically the bifacial hand axe. Understanding these technical distinctions is fundamental for accurately tracing the technological progression of early human ancestors.

134. (B) Plio-Pleistocene boundary

Significant archaeological sites often contain a combination of biological and cultural evidence from critical periods in history. A site that features fossils of Australopiths and early Homo, alongside simple Oldowan tools, provides essential data for understanding the transition that occurred at the Plio-Pleistocene boundary. This timeframe, around 2.6 million years ago, marks the decline of the earlier Australopiths and the emergence of our own genus, coinciding with major climatic changes and the widespread adoption of the first formal stone tool technologies.

135. (A) 3, 2, 1

The archaeological record reveals a clear chronological sequence in the development of stone tool traditions. The Oldowan is the earliest industry, characterized by simple cores and flakes. This was followed by the Acheulian industry, which introduced more complex bifacial tools like hand axes. Much later, advanced blade-based industries emerged, focusing on the production of standardized, elongated tools from prepared cores. Arranging these traditions in this order reflects the increasing cognitive complexity and technical proficiency of early human ancestors over millions of years.

136. (B) Pleistocene climate influenced human evolution

Prehistoric research often explores how environmental factors drove biological and cultural changes. A primary example of a cause-and-effect relationship is how the fluctuating climate of the Pleistocene influenced human evolution. The recurring cycles of glaciations and interglacials reshaped habitats and resource availability, creating intense selective pressures. These pressures favored individuals and groups with greater cognitive flexibility, larger brains, and better technological skills, thereby directly impacting the evolutionary trajectory of the hominin lineage throughout the Quaternary Period.

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137. (B) Role and meaning in societies

The study of prehistoric art goes beyond documenting physical attributes to explore the cultural and cognitive lives of ancient people. When focusing on the significance of art, researchers are investigating its role and meaning within those prehistoric societies. This involves exploring whether cave paintings or portable objects served as religious symbols, social identifiers, or educational tools. By attempting to interpret these creative works, archaeologists gain deeper insights into how our ancestors perceived their world and expressed their complex shared beliefs and traditions.

138. (B) Efficient production of cutting edges

Technological evolution in the Stone Age was driven by the need for more effective tools. The shift from early core-based industries to flake and blade-based industries represents a significant move toward the more efficient production of cutting edges. By developing techniques to strike thin, standardized flakes or blades from a prepared core, early humans could produce much more sharp edge from a single piece of raw material. This innovation allowed for the creation of a greater variety of specialized and portable tools.

139. (B) South America

The study of Palaeolithic cultural development focuses on the regions of the world where the earliest humans evolved and spread. This typically includes Africa, Europe, West Asia, China, and South East Asia. South America is generally not included in these primary studies because human occupation of the Americas occurred much later, during the very end of the Pleistocene epoch. Therefore, it does not contain the deep-time technological sequences, such as the Oldowan or Acheulian, found in the older inhabited continents of the Old World.

140. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

While the progression of human technology follows similar patterns across the globe, the terms used by archaeologists differ significantly by region. It is true that Palaeolithic terminology is not uniform. In Africa, the sequence is described using the Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age terminology. These periods correspond broadly to the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic labels used in Europe. This regional variation is a result of different historical research traditions and provides a foundational explanation for why global comparative studies must account for these diverse terminological systems.

141. (B) Pliocene and early Pleistocene evolution

Australopiths are a diverse and crucial group of hominins that represent a major stage in our evolutionary history. They are the primary subject of study for the Pliocene and early Pleistocene epochs, where they flourished across various parts of Africa. Characterized by bipedal locomotion but relatively small brain sizes compared to later humans, their fossil record provides essential evidence for how early ancestors transitioned from more ape-like forms toward the physical characteristics and behaviors that would define the subsequent genus Homo.

142. (C) Quaternary

The geological time scale organizes Earth's history into major periods and epochs. The Quaternary is the most recent geological period, which began approximately 2.6 million years ago and continues to the present day. This period is composed of two primary epochs: the earlier Pleistocene, famous for its repeated glaciations, and the Holocene, which is the current post-glacial epoch. Understanding the Quaternary is vital for prehistory as it encompasses the entire duration of the evolution and global dispersal of the genus Homo.

143. (C) The Oldowan is known for simple core tools.

Correctly identifying the characteristics of various stone tool traditions is fundamental to archaeology. The Oldowan is correctly described as being known for simple core tools, such as choppers, made by striking a few flakes off a pebble. This represents the earliest and most basic form of lithic technology. Other statements, such as the Acheulian predating the Oldowan or blade industries being part of the Early Stone Age, are inaccurate reflections of the established chronological and technological sequence found in the prehistoric record.

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144. (B) Skeletal remains of hominins

Human prehistory is investigated through multiple thematic lenses. The biological dimension specifically focuses on the physical development of our species over time. Therefore, studying this dimension most likely involves the analysis of skeletal remains of hominins. By examining fossilized bones and teeth, researchers can track changes in brain size, jaw structure, and locomotion, providing the physical evidence needed to reconstruct the evolutionary lineage of our ancestors from early Pre-Australopiths to modern Homo sapiens across various geological epochs.

145. (B) 1, 2, and 4

The study of human evolution involves several core areas of inquiry. It is correct that hominin ancestors are often divided into Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and the genus Homo, and that this evolution took place during the Late Tertiary and Quaternary periods. Furthermore, research on modern human dispersal is a central topic. However, it is incorrect to view the development of lithic technologies as a separate process; instead, it is highly integrated with biological evolution, as cognitive changes and technological innovations influenced each other.

146. (C) Hypotheses on modern human dispersal

One of the most important questions in prehistory is how modern humans achieved their current worldwide distribution. A scholar who focuses on the global expansion of Homo sapiens is specifically addressing the topic of hypotheses on modern human dispersal. This area of research examines the timing, routes, and reasons for these migrations from Africa into Eurasia, Australia, and eventually the Americas. This study integrates data from archaeological sites, genetic patterns, and environmental reconstruction to explain the successful spread of our species.

147. (B) Magnetic field polarity record in rocks

Paleomagnetism is a powerful scientific tool used in prehistoric research. The term paleomagnetic records refers to the historical record of the Earth's magnetic field polarity that is preserved in certain minerals within rocks and sediments. Because the Earth's magnetic field has reversed its north-south orientation many times throughout history, these reversals serve as global chronological markers. By matching the magnetic signature of a geological layer with the established global time scale, researchers can determine the age of deposits containing fossils or artifacts.

148. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

The framework of prehistory uses various scientific categories to organize information. In the geological hierarchy, the Quaternary is a major Period, while the Pleistocene is an Epoch within it. Significant temporal markers include boundaries such as the Plio-Pleistocene. Finally, Marine Isotopic Stages serve as a primary data source for reconstructing ancient climates. Correctly matching these examples with their respective geological and research units is essential for understanding the multidisciplinary structure of the study of human beginnings and the environmental context of evolution.

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149. (A) Hominin species, technology, and symbols

The transition between the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic in Europe is one of the most significant periods in human history. This change is marked by several major shifts occurring simultaneously: a transition in hominin species as modern humans replaced Neanderthals, a leap in technology toward sophisticated blade and bone tools, and a dramatic increase in symbolic expression, including art and personal ornaments. These integrated changes indicate a fundamental shift in the cognitive and cultural complexity of ancient populations as they adapted to the late Pleistocene world.

150. (B) Political

The study of our earliest origins is structured around three core dimensions that provide a comprehensive view of the past. The geological dimension offers the environmental and chronological framework, the biological dimension tracks physical evolution and fossil evidence, and the cultural dimension explores the development of technology and behavior. While political systems are important for studying more recent human history, they are not considered one of the three foundational dimensions used to

organize the initial scientific inquiry into human beginnings and prehistory.

151. (C) Late Miocene or early Pliocene

The human evolutionary lineage is divided into several broad groups based on their chronological placement and physical traits. Pre-Australopiths are the earliest known members of this lineage. If a fossil is identified as a Pre-Australopith, it most likely dates back to the Late Miocene or the early Pliocene epoch. These groups represent the initial stages of hominin development shortly after the split from our common ancestor with apes, providing the earliest evidence of the transition toward the physical characteristics of our lineage.

152. (C) Standardized bifacial tools like hand axes

The Acheulian industry represents a major technological achievement in the early history of humans. Associated with the Lower Palaeolithic in Europe and the Early Stone Age in Africa, it is best known for the production of standardized, bifacially worked tools, particularly the hand axe and cleaver. This method of flaking both sides of a stone to create a symmetrical tool indicates a significant increase in cognitive planning and manual dexterity compared to the earlier and simpler Oldowan core-and-flake traditions.

153. (B) Ritual, magic, or story functions

When researchers investigate the significance of prehistoric art, they are delving into the deeper meanings behind creative expressions. This study involves exploring whether cave paintings, engravings, or portable sculptures served specific ritual, magic, or storytelling functions within their original societies. By analyzing motifs and their contexts, archaeologists attempt to understand the spiritual beliefs and social systems of ancient people. This inquiry helps reconstruct the cognitive and symbolic world of our ancestors, moving beyond mere physical description to understand the human experience.

154. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The study of prehistory is not limited to any single continent; it is a global scientific endeavor. It is incorrect to claim that Palaeolithic cultural studies are restricted to Europe. Instead, researchers explicitly include evidence from across the Old World, focusing on major developments in Africa, Europe, West Asia, South East Asia, and China. Each of these regions provides essential data that contributes to a complete understanding of how various hominin groups evolved, migrated, and developed unique technological and cultural responses to their specific regional environments.

155. (B) 1, 2, 3, and 4

An introduction to prehistory covers several foundational concepts that provide a framework for understanding the deep past. These include geological markers like the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, environmental data from Marine Isotopic Stages, and the major technological stages of the Oldowan and Acheulian industries. Furthermore, the study includes Palaeolithic cultural developments in regions like China. However, the origins of agriculture are typically not part of an introduction to the earliest prehistoric beginnings, as they occurred much later during the Neolithic period.

156. (B) Chronological succession of life forms

Biostratigraphy is a scientific discipline used to establish the relative age of geological layers. The main subject of the biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene is the study of the chronological succession of various life forms, including plants and animals, found within deposits from that epoch. Because different species emerged and went extinct at specific times, their presence in the fossil record allows researchers to correlate layers between different sites and reconstruct the shifting environmental conditions that accompanied the biological and cultural evolution of early humans.

157. (B) Europe and West Asia

Archaeological terminology varies by region, reflecting the unique histories of research in different parts of the world. The standard three-part division—consisting of the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic—is the primary terminology used for the cultural sequences of both Europe and West Asia. While other regions like Africa use the Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age system, the European model remains the dominant framework for comparing technological developments and chronological

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stages across the northern and western parts of the prehistoric Old World.

158. (B) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo

In the study of paleoanthropology, researchers use broad categories to organize the fossil evidence of our lineage. The concept of hominin ancestors includes three main groups that appeared in chronological succession: the Pre-Australopiths, who lived shortly after the split from apes; the Australopiths, who were bipedal but had smaller brains; and finally, the genus Homo, which includes our direct ancestors and relatives. Together, these groups provide the biological framework for understanding the long-term evolutionary journey that eventually led to modern humans.

159. (C) Oldowan

The archaeological record identifies the earliest phase of human technology through the study of stone tools. The Oldowan industry represents the first recognized stone tool technology, appearing over two and a half million years ago. It is characterized by simple core tools, such as choppers, and the flakes produced from them. This industry marks a major cognitive milestone in human prehistory, showing the first widespread and persistent evidence of our ancestors' ability to deliberately modify their environment using tools to process food and other resources.

160. (C) How did Homo sapiens spread globally?

Scientific research in prehistory is often organized around major questions. The study of hypotheses on modern human dispersal specifically addresses how Homo sapiens spread from their African origins to populate the rest of the world. Researchers in this field analyze genetic data, skeletal remains, and archaeological tool kits to identify the routes, timing, and environmental factors that facilitated this global expansion. This study is crucial for explaining the current geographic distribution and diversity of our species across all inhabited continents.

161. (A) The prehistoric beginning of humans

To gain a complete understanding of our past, researchers use a multifaceted approach. The study of the geological, biological, and cultural dimensions provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the prehistoric beginning of humans. The geological dimension provides the environment and timeline; the biological dimension tracks physical evolution; and the cultural dimension follows the development of technology and behavior. Integrating these three perspectives allows scientists to reconstruct the complex, interconnected process of how our species emerged and adapted to a changing world.

162. (C) Quaternary

The geological time scale organizes history into hierarchical divisions. The Quaternary is a major period that began approximately 2.6 million years ago and continues to the present day. Within this period, the Pleistocene is the earlier and longer epoch, famously known for its repeated ice ages. It is followed by the current Holocene epoch. Correctly placing the Pleistocene within the Quaternary is fundamental for understanding the chronological and environmental context of the majority of the evolutionary history of the genus Homo and our immediate ancestors.

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163. (B) Efficiency of raw material use

The history of lithic technology is marked by a trend toward more advanced manufacturing techniques. The development from early core-based industries, like the Oldowan and Acheulian, to later industries that emphasized flakes and blades represents a significant increase in the efficiency of raw material use. By striking many small flakes or standardized blades from a prepared core, early humans could produce much more sharp cutting edge from the same amount of stone, while creating a wider variety of specialized tools.

164. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

To facilitate the study of human history across continents, archaeologists establish temporal and cultural equivalents. It is true that the Late Stone Age of Africa is broadly contemporary with the Upper Palaeolithic of Europe, both representing the final stage of the Palaeolithic with advanced technologies. However, the Early Stone Age of Africa is not contemporary with the Middle Palaeolithic of Europe; instead, it is broadly equivalent to the Lower Palaeolithic, including the earliest stone tool traditions of our ancestors.

165. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Prehistoric art is a vital area of study because it provides evidence of the symbolic lives of ancient humans. Research correctly focuses on three pillars: antiquity to establish age, significance to interpret meaning, and distribution to map geographic spread. Together, these aspects provide a comprehensive explanation for how symbolic behavior emerged and functioned. Understanding when, why, and where art was created is essential for modern researchers to accurately reconstruct the cognitive development and cultural landscapes of our prehistoric ancestors throughout the world.

166. (C) Oldowan - a blade-based industry

Accuracy in classification is essential for the study of prehistory. It is incorrect to pair the Oldowan with a blade-based industry; the Oldowan is actually characterized by simple core and flake tools. Blade-based industries appeared much later in the record during the Upper Palaeolithic. Other pairs are correct: the Pleistocene is an epoch of the Quaternary, the Pliocene is an epoch of the Late Tertiary, and Australopiths are a major hominin group. These categories form the established framework of prehistoric science.

167. (B) Homo emergence and stone tool use

The Plio-Pleistocene boundary, occurring around 2.6 million years ago, is a landmark in the story of human evolution. This transition is highly significant because it is closely associated with the first emergence of our own genus, Homo, and the widespread appearance of the first formal stone tool technology, the Oldowan industry. During this time, significant climatic shifts occurred that likely influenced these evolutionary milestones. Studying this boundary helps archaeologists understand the adaptive changes that set the foundation for subsequent human cultural and biological history.

168. (B) Middle Palaeolithic / Middle Stone Age

Advanced stone tool traditions are often identified by the specific techniques used to prepare stone cores. An archaeologist who finds evidence of prepared core techniques, such as the Levallois method, is most likely investigating the Middle Palaeolithic in Europe and West Asia, or the Middle Stone Age in Africa. These methods involve carefully shaping a core to produce flakes of a specific size and shape, representing a significant cognitive leap and a shift toward more complex and standardized lithic technologies during the Pleistocene.

169. (B) To provide climate chronologies

Reconstructing the environmental history of the past is essential for understanding human evolution. The primary purpose of using Marine Isotopic Stages in prehistoric research is to provide high-resolution climate chronologies. By analyzing oxygen isotopes in marine sediment cores, scientists can track changes in global ice volume and ocean temperatures over millions of years. This data allows researchers to identify specific glacial and interglacial cycles, providing a reliable temporal framework for correlating climatic changes with shifts in hominin biology and cultural traditions.

170. (C) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The study of Palaeolithic cultural development is a global endeavor that covers multiple key regions of the Old World. It correctly includes the study of the Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age in Africa, as well as the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic in Europe. Furthermore, the framework encompasses cultural developments in West Asia, China, and South East Asia. Together, these regions provide the comprehensive archaeological evidence needed to understand how early human ancestors adapted to diverse environments across three different continents throughout the Pleistocene epoch.

171. (C) Late Miocene and Pliocene

The earliest stages of human biological history are documented through the fossil record of our first ancestors. The period defined by the initial emergence of hominin groups like Pre-Australopiths and the subsequent diversification of various Australopith species is primarily the Late Miocene and the Pliocene. These epochs represent the foundational phase of our lineage, where bipedalism first appeared before the emergence of the genus Homo and the later development of more complex stone tool

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technologies and major climatic fluctuations of the Quaternary.

172. (C) Stone

In the context of archaeology and human prehistory, the term lithic is derived from the ancient Greek word for stone. Therefore, when researchers refer to lithic technologies, they are specifically discussing the diverse methods and techniques our ancestors used to manufacture tools and implements from stone. Because stone is a durable material that survives for millions of years, these artifacts provide the primary and most consistent evidence for studying the cultural development, cognitive skills, and environmental adaptations of early human populations globally.

173. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

Understanding prehistory involves matching regional terminologies and geological concepts to their correct contexts. Africa is associated with the Middle Stone Age, while Europe uses the term Upper Palaeolithic for its later stages. Geologically, the Pliocene is the epoch where various Australopith species flourished, and the Pleistocene is famously studied using Marine Isotopic Stages to track climatic shifts. Correctly identifying these relationships is fundamental for accurately navigating the multidisciplinary evidence from the biological, cultural, and environmental dimensions of our evolutionary history across different continents.

174. (B) Evolution of tool traditions

Prehistory is studied through different lenses to organize the vast evidence of the past. The cultural dimension specifically focuses on the evolution of tool traditions, particularly stone implements. This field analyzes how hominins developed increasingly complex methods for making and using tools over millions of years, from simple Oldowan choppers to refined Upper Palaeolithic blades. These artifacts serve as the primary evidence for reconstructing ancient behaviors, cognitive skills, and technical innovations, showing how our ancestors used technology to adapt to their environments and survive.

175. (A) 3, 2, 4, 1

The history of human technology follows a recognizable chronological sequence of tool traditions. The Oldowan is the earliest industry, followed by the Acheulian, which introduced bifacial hand axes. Later, Middle Palaeolithic flake industries appeared, utilizing prepared core techniques. Finally, the sequence concludes with the advanced blade-based industries of the Upper Palaeolithic. Correctly ordering these stages from earliest to latest is essential for understanding the long-term technical and cognitive progression of our ancestors as they developed increasingly specialized and efficient tools throughout the Stone Age.

176. (B) End of last glacial Ice Age

The transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene epoch, occurring approximately 11,700 years ago, represents a major turning point in Earth's environmental history. This boundary specifically marks the end of the last major glacial period, commonly known as the Ice Age. The beginning of the Holocene brought a more stable and warmer global climate, which led to significant changes in sea levels, vegetation, and fauna. These environmental shifts provided the context for the development of modern human societies and the eventual rise of sedentary living and agriculture.

177. (B) Regional variation in behaviors

The study of Palaeolithic cultural developments in China is vital because it highlights the regional variation in human behaviors. While many early studies focused on Africa and Europe, evidence from East Asia shows that hominin populations developed unique technological responses to their local environments and raw materials. By examining these regional differences, archaeologists can gain a more complete and nuanced understanding of global human adaptation, demonstrating that there was no single, universal pathway for cultural evolution during the long course of the Palaeolithic period.

178. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Establishing an accurate timeline for prehistory relies on integrating multiple scientific dating methods. Biostratigraphy is a reliable technique that uses the chronological succession of fossilized plants and animals to date geological

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thematic framework allows archaeologists to reconstruct the cognitive development, symbolic behavior, and social networks of the ancient populations who created cave paintings and other creative works.

192. (B) Miocene -> Pliocene -> Pleistocene

The geological time scale provides the fundamental chronological framework for studying the history of life on Earth. In the context of human prehistory, the correct chronological order of the most relevant epochs begins with the Miocene, which is followed by the Pliocene. The sequence then moves into the Pleistocene epoch of the Quaternary Period. Correctly ordering these stages is essential for situating different phases of hominin evolution, from the earliest primate ancestors in the Miocene to the diversification of the genus Homo in the Pleistocene.

193. (C) Stone implements

The cultural backdrop of human evolution is the study of how ancient behaviors and technologies changed over time. Because stone tools are durable and persist in the archaeological record for millions of years, they provide the primary documentation for this study. By analyzing various stone implements, from simple choppers to complex blades, researchers can trace the cognitive development, manual skills, and adaptive strategies of our hominin ancestors. These artifacts serve as the most consistent and detailed evidence of the creative and technical history of early human populations.

194. (B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.

Archaeological terminology is specific to different geographic regions based on their unique research traditions. It is incorrect to say that the term Middle Stone Age is used in Europe; instead, it is an African term. Similarly, the term Middle Palaeolithic is traditionally used in Europe and West Asia, not in Africa. Recognizing that these regional labels describe comparable technological stages but are used in different parts of the world is fundamental for anyone attempting to understand or compare global archaeological data and scientific literature correctly.

195. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

The study of prehistory is built on a structured framework of geological and archaeological terminology. It is correct that the Late Tertiary period includes the Miocene and Pliocene epochs, while the Quaternary period comprises the Pleistocene and Holocene. Furthermore, the cultural sequences are aligned across regions: the Early Stone Age of Africa is equivalent to the Lower Palaeolithic of Europe, and the Late Stone Age is equivalent to the Upper Palaeolithic. All four statements provide an accurate summary of the essential classifications used in the study of our ancient past.

196. (C) Analysis of Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)

Reconstructing past environments is a complex scientific task that requires reliable data sources. A vital method for understanding the fluctuating climate of the Pleistocene is the analysis of Marine Isotopic Stages. By measuring the ratios of oxygen isotopes in the fossilized shells of tiny marine organisms found in deep-sea sediment cores, researchers can track changes in global ice volume and ocean temperature over millions of years. This data provides a detailed, high-resolution record of glacial and interglacial cycles, helping scientists contextualize the environmental pressures on human evolution.

197. (B) Modern humans and extinct relatives

In biological classification, the term Homo refers to the genus that includes our own species. This group encompasses modern humans (Homo sapiens) as well as all our extinct ancestors and close relatives that shared similar physical and behavioral traits, such as Homo erectus and the Neanderthals. Understanding the genus Homo is central to prehistory because it marks the phase of evolution characterized by significantly larger brains, widespread use of increasingly complex technology, and the global dispersal of ancient human populations throughout the Pleistocene epoch.

198. (A) Evolution and development of lithic technologies.

The archaeological record reveals a clear and sustained trend toward more complex methods of tool production. The progression from simple Oldowan choppers to the bifacial tools of the Acheulian, and eventually to the specialized

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185. (B) 1, 2, 3, and 4

The study of European prehistory is organized around a standard chronological and technological framework. This includes the major subdivisions of the Palaeolithic: the Lower Palaeolithic, the Middle Palaeolithic, and the Upper Palaeolithic. Within the Lower Palaeolithic, researchers specifically study the Acheulian industry, which is characterized by bifacial hand axes. Together, these stages provide a complete record of how early humans in Europe developed increasingly complex stone tool technologies and behavioral strategies over hundreds of thousands of years, from the earliest arrivals until the end of the Pleistocene.

186. (B) Integrated multidimensional process

The scientific study of human beginnings is not limited to any single type of evidence. Instead, it is an integrated multidimensional process that combines data from several different fields. Researchers must analyze the geological context to understand the timeline and environment, the biological evidence to track physical evolution, and the cultural remains to study technological and behavioral development. By integrating these dimensions, scientists can create a comprehensive and detailed reconstruction of how our ancestors emerged and adapted to a changing world over millions of years.

187. (B) Shaped environments for evolution

The environment plays a decisive role in the history of any species. The study of major climatic and environmental changes during the Pleistocene is a key topic because these shifts directly shaped the environments for human evolution. The repeated cycles of glaciations and interglacials altered habitats, affected the availability of food and water, and created intense selective pressures. These pressures favored the development of larger brains, more complex social groups, and better technological skills, thereby serving as a primary driver for the biological and cultural evolution of our ancestors.

188. (D) Denisovans

The main stages of human evolution are typically organized into broad groups that represent major phases of our lineage. These include Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and the genus Homo. While the Denisovans are an important and fascinating group of ancient humans, they are often considered a more specialized regional population found through genetic and limited fossil evidence, rather than one of the three foundational categories used to summarize the primary, overarching stages of global hominin evolution within an introductory prehistoric framework.

189. (C) Hypotheses on modern human dispersal

Investigating how our species achieved a global presence is a fundamental goal of archaeology and paleoanthropology. A researcher who studies the origins of modern humans and their subsequent expansion across different continents is directly addressing the topic of hypotheses on modern human dispersal. This area of study utilizes genetic, fossil, and archaeological data to reconstruct the timing, routes, and environmental factors that allowed Homo sapiens to move out of Africa and successfully adapt to every corner of the globe, replacing other earlier hominin populations.

190. (B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

The archaeological record clearly documents a progression in stone tool technology. It is true that the Oldowan industry represents the earliest phase, and it is also true that the more complex Acheulian industry succeeded it. This sequence indicates a long-term technological evolution. However, the mere fact that the Acheulian followed the Oldowan does not, on its own, fully explain why the Oldowan is considered the earliest phase; that status is based on its absolute dating and its position at the base of the cultural record.

191. (B) Prehistoric Art

The study of prehistoric art requires a structured academic approach to understand its role in the human story. Researchers organize this study around the three themes of antiquity, significance, and distribution. Antiquity refers to determining the age of the art; significance involves interpreting its symbolic and cultural meanings; and distribution maps its geographical spread across various sites and continents. This

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layers. Simultaneously, paleomagnetism provides a separate chronological scale by recording the historical reversals of the Earth's magnetic field in rocks and sediments. Both statements accurately describe these foundational scientific processes, which allow researchers to place hominin fossils and stone tool industries within a firm temporal framework, facilitating a detailed understanding of our evolutionary history.

179. (B) Standardized elongated blades

Technological progress in the later stages of the Palaeolithic is marked by a shift in manufacturing goals. A key characteristic of both the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe and the Late Stone Age in Africa is the emphasis on producing standardized elongated blades. These blades were thin, sharp flakes struck from specially prepared cores, providing a massive increase in cutting edge per pound of stone. This innovation allowed for the creation of a wide variety of specialized tools, reflecting the advanced cognitive skills and diverse subsistence strategies of modern human populations.

180. (C) Hominin

In the scientific study of human evolution, precise terminology is used to describe different parts of the primate family tree. The most appropriate term for the specific lineage that includes modern humans and all our extinct ancestors after the split from the common ancestor shared with chimpanzees is hominin. This category encompasses diverse groups like Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and members of the genus Homo. Understanding this term is essential for focusing on the unique evolutionary pathway that led to the development of our species over millions of years.

181. (C) Cultural

Prehistory is organized into several thematic dimensions to better categorize different types of evidence. The study of the Acheulian industry, which is defined by the production of bifacial stone tools such as hand axes, belongs to the cultural dimension. This dimension specifically examines the development of human technology and behavior through the analysis of material remains. By tracing the progression of tool-making techniques, archaeologists can reconstruct the cognitive abilities and adaptive strategies of early human ancestors, providing a detailed record of cultural evolution during the Palaeolithic.

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182. (B) Pliocene

The geological time scale provides the chronological context for different stages of human evolution. The genus Australopithecus is most closely associated with the Pliocene epoch, during which various species flourished across the African continent. Fossil evidence from this timeframe, which spans from approximately 5.3 to 2.6 million years ago, shows that these hominins were bipedal but retained many ancestral features. This epoch represents a critical period of diversification for early hominins before the emergence of the genus Homo near the start of the subsequent Pleistocene epoch.

183. (C) Geographical range of people

Studying where ancient artifacts and artworks are found provides crucial information about past populations. In the context of prehistoric art, analyzing its distribution helps archaeologists understand the geographical range of the people who created it. By mapping the locations of cave paintings, rock engravings, and portable art objects across different continents and environments, researchers can identify patterns of human migration, regional cultural traditions, and the extent of social networks. This spatial data is essential for reconstructing the movement and settlement patterns of prehistoric humans globally.

184. (C) Geographic region terminology

While the technological stages of human history are broadly similar across many parts of the world, the labels used to describe them often differ. The distinction between the terms Early Stone Age and Lower Palaeolithic is primarily one of geographic region terminology. Early Stone Age is the standard term used in African archaeology, while Lower Palaeolithic is used in Europe and West Asia to describe a comparable technological phase involving industries like the Oldowan and Acheulian. Recognizing these regional names is essential for any comparative study of global prehistory.

flake and blade-based industries, reflects the long-term evolution and development of lithic technologies. These changes indicate a significant increase in cognitive planning, manual dexterity, and the ability of early humans to maximize the efficiency of raw materials. Tracing this progression is essential for understanding the technical and behavioral history of our ancestors.

199. (A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

Masterng prehistory requires connecting key scientific terms with their associated concepts. Homo is a hominin genus within the biological dimension. The Acheulian is a specific lithic industry known for its bifacial tools. The Pleistocene is the geological epoch famous for climatic fluctuations and Marine Isotopic Stages. Finally, prehistoric art is studied through the lenses of its antiquity and significance. Matching these terms correctly provides a comprehensive overview of the different dimensions—biological, cultural, and environmental—that must be integrated to understand the multifaceted process of human beginnings.

200. (B) Europe

The terminology used to describe the subdivisions of the Palaeolithic is not uniform worldwide but often follows regional research models. The division of the Palaeolithic in West Asia into Lower, Middle, and Upper stages follows the same terminological model originally developed for Europe. This consistency between the two regions allows archaeologists to more easily compare the timing and nature of technological shifts across these neighboring areas of the Old World, even though other regions, like Africa, utilize a different system based on the Stone Age labels.

201. (C) Pliocene

The geological time scale organizes history into a sequence of periods and epochs. In this chronological framework, the Pliocene epoch immediately precedes the Pleistocene. The transition between these two epochs occurred approximately 2.6 million years ago and marks a significant boundary in both geological and human history. It signifies the end of the Late Tertiary period and the beginning of the Quaternary period, a time characterized by major climatic cooling and the initial emergence and diversification of the earliest members of the genus Homo.

202. (C) Development of material tool culture

Prehistory is studied through several integrated dimensions to organize different types of evidence. The cultural dimension focuses specifically on the development of material tool culture, particularly stone implements. This area of research investigates how early human ancestors used their cognitive and manual skills to create and refine technology over millions of years. By analyzing these durable artifacts, from simple flakes to complex blades, archaeologists can reconstruct the behavioral strategies, technical innovations, and adaptive capabilities that allowed ancient populations to survive and thrive in diverse environments.

203. (A) Early hominins primarily from Pliocene

The genus Australopithecus, whose members are commonly called Australopiths, represents a critical stage in the human lineage. These early hominins lived primarily during the Pliocene epoch, flourishing across various regions of Africa between approximately 4 and 2.5 million years ago. Known for being among the first to exhibit habitual bipedalism while retaining smaller brain sizes and some ape-like physical traits, their fossil record provides essential evidence for the biological changes that occurred before the emergence of the genus Homo and the widespread adoption of stone tools.

204. (C) Pleistocene is an epoch of Quaternary.

Accuracy in geological and archaeological terminology is fundamental for scientific study. It is a correct statement that the Pleistocene is an epoch within the broader Quaternary Period. Other common misconceptions must be corrected: the Late Stone Age is equivalent to the Upper Palaeolithic, not the Middle; the Oldowan is a simple core-and-flake industry, not a complex blade-based one; and prehistoric art has a global distribution rather than being exclusive to any single continent. Recognizing these facts is essential for understanding the established framework of prehistory.

205. (B) 1, 2, 3, and 4

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paintings, engravings, or sculptures were created. Determining the age of these creative works is essential for placing them within the timeline of human cognitive and cultural evolution, helping scientists understand when and where symbolic behaviors first emerged among our ancestors.

219. (C) Upper Palaeolithic in Europe

To facilitate the study of human history across different parts of the world, archaeologists establish equivalents between regional technological stages. In this comparative framework, the Late Stone Age in Africa is characterized by technologies, such as advanced blade and microlithic production, that are directly comparable to those of the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe. Both stages represent the final phase of the Palaeolithic period, showing evidence of sophisticated cognitive skills, diverse subsistence strategies, and widespread symbolic behavior among modern human populations during the late Pleistocene epoch.

220. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Plio-Pleistocene boundary, occurring approximately 2.6 million years ago, is a major landmark in our history. It is true that this boundary is of major significance because it coincided with intense environmental shifts and the emergence of our own genus. The cooling climate and changing habitats favored the decline of earlier Australopiths and the rise of the genus Homo, along with the development of more sophisticated stone tool traditions. Therefore, the combination of environmental and biological changes provides a comprehensive explanation for why this boundary is so critical to prehistoric research.

221. (C) Marine Isotopic Stages (MIS)

Reconstructing ancient climates requires precise data from the geological record. The concept used to create high-resolution climate chronologies for the Pleistocene, based on sediment cores from the ocean floor, is Marine Isotopic Stages. By measuring oxygen isotope ratios in fossilized marine organisms, researchers can determine past changes in global ice volume and ocean temperature. This provides a detailed timeline of glacial and interglacial cycles. This isotopic record is essential for understanding the environmental pressures that shaped human evolution and influenced migration patterns throughout the Quaternary Period.

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222. (B) Modern humans and all post-split ancestors

In biological classification, the term hominin has a specific and important definition. It is best defined as the group consisting of modern humans and all our extinct ancestors and close relatives that lived after the evolutionary split from the common ancestor shared with chimpanzees. This includes various species of Ardipithecus, Australopithecus, and all members of the genus Homo. Understanding the diversity and evolutionary history within the hominin category is fundamental to the study of prehistory, as it tracks the lineage that eventually produced our own species.

223. (C) Modification of pebbles into choppers

The Oldowan industry is recognized as the earliest formal stone tool tradition in the archaeological record. The fundamental characteristic of this industry is the modification of pebbles into simple core tools known as choppers. This was achieved by striking a few flakes off one side of a stone with a hammerstone. While these tools appear simple, they represent a significant cognitive leap for early humans, providing the first clear evidence of deliberate and persistent tool manufacturing to process various resources in their environment during the early Pleistocene.

224. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The study of our origins is a complex undertaking that requires looking at the past through multiple lenses. It is true that human prehistory is traditionally organized into the geological, biological, and cultural dimensions of the prehistoric beginning. Furthermore, these dimensions are not isolated but are highly integrated, as changes in the environment, physical body, and technology influenced each other over millions of years. Both statements accurately describe the multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach that modern scientists use to build a comprehensive understanding of how our ancestors emerged and evolved.

225. (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

212. (B) Development of complex tool technologies

In the context of prehistory, researchers analyze how our ancestors interacted with their environment through technology. The phrase evolution of stone implements refers specifically to the long-term development of complex tool technologies over millions of years. This study tracks the progression from simple Oldowan choppers to the sophisticated blades and specialized tools of later periods. By examining these changes, archaeologists can reconstruct the technical skills, cognitive abilities, and adaptive strategies of ancient humans, providing a detailed record of their cultural and behavioral history throughout the Stone Age.

213. (A) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo

To organize the vast array of human ancestor fossils, paleoanthropologists typically divide the hominin lineage into three main groups based on their chronological placement and physical characteristics. Pre-Australopiths represent the earliest phase after the split from apes; Australopiths include diverse species that were bipedal but had smaller brains; and the genus Homo represents the later stage of significant cognitive and technological growth. These three categories provide the foundational framework for understanding the biological progression and evolutionary relationships within the human family tree across various geological epochs.

214. (C) Biological dimension

Prehistory is studied through different thematic dimensions to organize diverse types of evidence. A study focusing on the origins of bipedalism—the ability to walk habitually on two legs—would be placed in the biological dimension. This field utilizes fossil remains, such as skeletal and foot structures, to track physical changes in early hominin ancestors. Understanding when and why bipedalism emerged is a central question in human evolution, as it represents a fundamental physical adaptation that distinguishs our lineage from other primates and influenced subsequent biological and behavioral developments.

215. (B) Period

The geological time scale is structured into hierarchical units of time to organize Earth's history. Within this system, the Quaternary is classified as a Period. It is the most recent period of the Cenozoic Era, beginning approximately 2.6 million years ago and continuing to the present day. The Quaternary Period is further subdivided into two epochs: the Pleistocene and the Holocene. This specific terminology is fundamental to prehistory, as the Quaternary provides the overarching temporal framework for the entire duration of the evolution and cultural history of our genus.

216. (A) Core tools to flake tools

The history of lithic technology is marked by significant shifts in the focus of tool manufacturing. The transition from the Acheulian industry to the flake-based industries of the Middle Palaeolithic or Middle Stone Age involved a fundamental shift from core tools to flake tools. While Acheulian toolmakers focused on shaping a stone core into a large bifacial implement, later populations utilized flakes struck from prepared cores as the primary material for specialized tools. This transition indicates more complex planning and a move toward more efficient and varied tool kits.

217. (D) Holocene is the epoch that precedes Pleistocene.

Understanding the correct order of geological divisions is essential for prehistoric research. It is incorrect to state that the Holocene precedes the Pleistocene; in fact, the Pleistocene is the earlier epoch and the Holocene follows it. Other statements correctly identify the Miocene and Pliocene as Late Tertiary epochs, the Pleistocene and Holocene as Quaternary epochs, and the Plio-Pleistocene boundary as the transition point between the Tertiary and Quaternary. Recognizing this established sequence is fundamental for placing evolutionary and cultural milestones in their correct chronological context.

218. (B) Age

In the field of prehistoric archaeology, art is studied through several specific academic lenses. The inquiry into the antiquity of prehistoric art is primarily concerned with establishing its age. Researchers use various chronometric dating techniques, such as radiocarbon dating or uranium-series dating, to determine when

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The study of Palaeolithic cultural development is a global scientific effort that focuses on the regions of the Old World where humans first emerged and spread. These primary focus areas correctly include Africa, Europe, West Asia, and China along with South East Asia. Together, these vast geographic regions provide the essential archaeological and fossil evidence needed to reconstruct the long-term history of human technology and behavior. By examining tools and artifacts from these diverse areas, researchers can identify both universal evolutionary trends and unique regional human adaptations.

206. (B) Human evolution stages and fossils

Human prehistory is investigated through several thematic lenses to organize the vast amount of evidence. The biological dimension specifically includes the study of the main stages of human evolution and the analysis of important fossil records found globally. This field examines physical changes in our ancestors, such as brain enlargement, dental shifts, and skeletal adaptations for bipedalism. By tracing these biological developments from early Pre-Australopiths to modern humans, researchers can reconstruct the physical lineage and evolutionary history that defines the development of our species.

207. (B) Systematic production of bifacial tools

The transition from the Oldowan to the Acheulian industry represents a major milestone in human technological history. A key feature that develops after the simpler Oldowan and defines the Acheulian is the systematic production of bifacial tools, such as the hand axe. This process involves flaking both sides of a stone core to create a symmetrical, multipurpose implement. The appearance of these bifaces indicates a significant leap in cognitive planning, manual dexterity, and the ability of early humans to standardize complex tool forms over large geographic areas.

208. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The transition between the Pliocene and Pleistocene epochs is a central focus of prehistoric research. It is true that the Plio-Pleistocene boundary is a major focal point in the study of our origins, as it represents a period of significant climatic and biological change. Furthermore, it is during this timeframe that the genus Homo first emerged and began to diversify. Both statements accurately reflect the scientific consensus that this geological boundary marks a critical shift in the human lineage, setting the stage for subsequent technological and physical development.

209. (C) Stable post-Ice Age warmer climate

The Holocene is the current geological epoch, following the end of the Pleistocene approximately 11,700 years ago. It is uniquely characterized by a relatively stable and warmer global climate compared to the fluctuating ice ages of the preceding period. This environmental stability played a crucial role in human history, facilitating the development of permanent settlements, the rise of agriculture, and the eventual emergence of complex civilizations. It represents the final and current stage of the Quaternary Period, providing the climate context for all recorded human history.

210. (A) P-2, Q-1, R-3

Terminology for the Stone Age is specific to different geographic regions based on regional research traditions. Africa utilizes the term Middle Stone Age for its intermediate Palaeolithic phase. In contrast, Europe uses the term Lower Palaeolithic for its earliest stage. West Asia traditionally follows the European model, which includes the term Upper Palaeolithic for its later, more advanced stage. Correctly matching these terms to their respective regions is essential for navigating scientific literature and understanding the global chronological framework of early human technological and cultural development.

211. (C) The Pleistocene

The majority of human evolutionary history took place during a time of intense environmental instability. The Pleistocene epoch is the primary focus for the study of major environmental and climatic changes that influenced our ancestors. Lasting from about 2.6 million years ago until 11,700 years ago, this epoch was characterized by repeated cycles of glaciations and interglacials. These dramatic shifts created the selective pressures that favored the development of larger brains and more complex cultural behaviors, serving as a primary driver for hominin adaptation throughout the Quaternary.

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The history of stone tool technology is categorized into several major stages that reflect increasing complexity. It is correct that the Oldowan is the earliest industry and the Acheulian is defined by bifacial hand axes. Furthermore, the Middle Palaeolithic is associated with sophisticated prepared-core techniques, while the Upper Palaeolithic saw a significant increase in the production of specialized blade tools. All four statements accurately summarize the key technological markers and progressions that define the cultural stages of the Palaeolithic period throughout the Old World.

226. (B) How Homo sapiens populated the globe

Investigating the movement of ancient populations is a central goal of modern prehistoric research. The phrase hypotheses on modern human dispersal refers specifically to various scientific models and theories that explain how Homo sapiens migrated from their origins in Africa to eventually populate every corner of the globe. These models integrate evidence from archaeological sites, genetic patterns, and skeletal remains to determine the timing and routes of these migrations. Understanding this process is essential for explaining the current geographical distribution and genetic diversity of modern human populations globally.

227. (B) Late Tertiary

The geological time scale organizes Earth's history into periods which are further subdivided into epochs. Within this framework, the Pliocene epoch belongs to the Late Tertiary period. This epoch, which preceded the Quaternary, was a significant time in our history as it saw the flourishing of diverse hominin species, such as the Australopiths, in Africa. Understanding that the Pliocene is part of the Tertiary is fundamental for correctly placing early evolutionary developments within the broader timeline of Earth's history and the subsequent transition to the Pleistocene epoch.

228. (C) Late Stone Age / Upper Palaeolithic

Technical progress in stone tool production is marked by the emergence of more specialized manufacturing methods. The widespread appearance of blade-based industries is a hallmark of the final stage of the Palaeolithic. In African terminology, this is known as the Late Stone Age, while in European and West Asian terminology, it is called the Upper Palaeolithic. These industries focused on producing standardized elongated flakes that could be modified into various specialized tools, reflecting the advanced cognitive and technical skills of modern human populations during the late Pleistocene.

229. (D) Holocene

The geological time scale organizes the history of the planet into a chronological sequence of epochs. Among the epochs relevant to human prehistory, the Holocene is the most recent. It followed the Pleistocene approximately 11,700 years ago and continues to the present day. Characterized by a more stable and warmer global climate, the Holocene provided the environmental context for the development of modern human societies, the rise of agriculture, and all recorded history. Correctly identifying it as the current epoch is fundamental for understanding our place in geological time.

230. (B) Prehistoric Art

Human creativity and symbolic expression are key indicators of cognitive complexity. A researcher studying the very first appearance of symbolic behavior, such as engravings on stone or bone and the creation of personal ornaments like beads, would be most interested in the subject of prehistoric art. This field explores the origins and development of creative works that go beyond mere survival, providing insights into the spiritual beliefs, social identities, and symbolic communication systems of our ancient ancestors during the later stages of the Palaeolithic period.

231. (B) Europe and West Asia

While human technological development followed similar broad trends, the labels used to describe these stages vary by region. The terms Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic are the standard terminological framework used to organize the cultural sequences of both Europe and West Asia. This common system allows for easier comparisons of archaeological data and technological shifts between these two neighboring regions of the Old World. In contrast, other areas like Africa use the Stone Age system,

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on perishable raw materials, such as bamboo, which would not survive in the archaeological record. This reliance on alternative resources, alongside local cultural traditions, explains why their lithic toolkits differ from western sequences.

294. (B) challenges unilinear models of technological progress.

Investigating the prehistory of China and South East Asia is vital because it challenges the idea of a single, universal path of technological progress. It proves that hominin populations responded to their specific environments with unique and effective solutions. This regional study provides a more balanced global perspective, highlighting the full diversity of human behavior during the Stone Age.

295. (C) China and South East Asia during the Palaeolithic.

The term chopper-chopping tool tradition refers to the characteristic way stone tools were made in a specific global region. This description is used for the Palaeolithic industries of China and South East Asia, where simple cores and flakes were used instead of bifacial handaxes. This tradition reflects a distinct and effective cultural solution developed by hominins in that area.

296. (B) Antiquity, significance, and distribution.

The academic study of prehistoric art is structured around three interconnected aspects of the phenomenon. Researchers investigate its antiquity to find its chronological origins, its significance to determine its purpose and meaning, and its distribution to map its global spread. These three categories provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the emergence of symbolic thought in human evolutionary history.

297. (A) proposed purpose, function, and meaning.

When prehistorians discuss the significance of ancient art, they are investigating the reasons behind its creation. This includes exploring proposed purposes and meanings, such as hunting magic, shamanistic rituals, or social identity. Because the true intent of the artists is difficult to determine, the function and symbolic meaning of this art remain a subject of intense academic debate.

298. (B) The Upper Palaeolithic.

Although early signs of artistic expression may exist earlier, the most significant period for prehistoric art is a later stage of the Palaeolithic. The Upper Palaeolithic is widely recognized as the era when artistic activity flourished most prominently. This period is associated with a surge in symbolic behavior, resulting in the creation of many famous cave paintings and ornaments.

299. (B) That artistic expression was a fundamental behavioral capacity of modern humans.

Ancient art is found in many different parts of the world, including Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. This wide geographical distribution indicates that the ability to create symbolic art was a fundamental behavioral capacity of modern humans. As these populations spread across the globe, they brought with them the same underlying potential for complex communication and artistic expression.

300. (A) determining its chronological placement in the prehistoric timeline.

Researching the antiquity of prehistoric art is primarily concerned with establishing when these creative practices first began. This involves determining the chronological placement of the earliest artistic evidence within the wider timeline of human development. By identifying these origins, researchers can better understand when the cognitive threshold for symbolic thought and communication was first crossed by ancestors.

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from its earliest Pre-Australopith ancestors through to the emergence of the genus Homo. Furthermore, the dispersal of modern humans is a central topic that integrates both biological and cultural data. Both statements accurately reflect the primary focus areas of modern paleoanthropology and archaeology, which work together to reconstruct how our species emerged, changed, and eventually achieved a global distribution.

239. (B) Plio-Pleistocene boundary

The geological time scale is divided into major units that organize Earth's history into manageable chapters. The division between the Tertiary and Quaternary periods is specifically marked by the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, occurring approximately 2.6 million years ago. This boundary is of immense importance to prehistory because it signifies a time of significant climatic cooling and coincides with major evolutionary milestones, including the initial emergence of the genus Homo and the first widespread use of stone tool technology, which set the foundation for subsequent human history.

240. (C) Early Stone Age

To facilitate the comparative study of human prehistory across different continents, archaeologists use regional terms that describe comparable technological and chronological stages. In this framework, the African equivalent of the European Lower Palaeolithic is known as the Early Stone Age. This period encompasses the earliest stone tool traditions, such as the Oldowan and the Acheulian, and covers the initial phases of hominin technological behavior. Recognizing these equivalent labels is essential for researchers to accurately communicate and understand the cultural developments that occurred across different regions of the Old World.

241. (C) Middle Palaeolithic / Middle Stone Age

Technological evolution in the Stone Age is characterized by shifts in the primary methods used to manufacture tools. The development of industries that focused on producing flakes from specially prepared cores, such as the Levallois technique, is the hallmark of the Middle Palaeolithic in Europe and West Asia, or the Middle Stone Age in Africa. These methods allowed for greater control over the size and shape of the resulting tools, indicating a significant cognitive leap and a more sophisticated approach to tool kits compared to earlier core-based traditions.

242. (C) West Asia, China and South East Asia

The study of Palaeolithic cultural development is a global scientific effort that seeks to understand human history across all inhabited continents of the Old World. This framework correctly includes evidence from Africa and Europe, as well as crucial developments in West Asia, China, and South East Asia. By examining the diverse stone tool traditions and behavioral evidence from these three vast regions, archaeologists can gain a more complete and detailed understanding of how our ancestors adapted to different environmental challenges and developed unique regional cultural identities over time.

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243. (B) Fossil analysis for evolutionary lineage

Prehistory is studied through multiple thematic lenses to organize the vast amount of scientific evidence. The study of the biological dimension of human origins specifically focuses on fossil analysis for reconstructing the evolutionary lineage of our ancestors. By examining skeletal remains, teeth, and footprints, researchers can track physical changes such as brain enlargement, dental modifications, and the development of bipedalism. This evidence provides the physical record of our history, showing how different hominin species are related and how our own species eventually emerged over millions of years of evolution.

244. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Masters of prehistory must correctly associate various cultural stages and geological periods with their defining features. The Oldowan industry is known for simple choppers and flakes, while the Acheulian is defined by bifacial hand axes. The Upper Palaeolithic represents an advanced stage with specialized blade and burin technology alongside prehistoric art. Finally, the Holocene is the current post-glacial epoch. Correctly matching these terms is essential for understanding the technological, biological, and environmental milestones that define the long

dramatic shifts in global climate profoundly impacted landscapes and ecosystems, creating a challenging and ever-changing environment that shaped the subsequent course of biological development and human cultural evolution.

260. (A) They are complementary methods, integrating global climate data with local environmental evidence.

Prehistorians integrate Marine Isotopic Stages and biostratigraphy to achieve a comprehensive understanding of past environments. While isotopic stages offer a detailed global chronology of climatic cycles, biostratigraphy provides localized evidence from fossilized flora and fauna. These methods are complementary, allowing researchers to combine large-scale climate data with specific regional insights to reconstruct the backdrop of ancient human prehistory.

261. (D) examining important fossil records.

Understanding the developmental stages of the human lineage relies heavily on physical evidence preserved in the earth. Paleoanthropologists study a vast and growing body of important fossil records to trace the emergence and diversification of ancestors. These biological remains provide the primary data needed to piece together the anatomical and behavioral changes that define the complex history of hominins.

262. (B) Pre-Australopiths, Australopiths, and Homo.

The evolutionary sequence of hominins is categorized into distinct stages reflecting biological and chronological progress. This lineage starts with the Pre-Australopiths, followed by the diverse Australopiths, and eventually culminates in the emergence of the genus Homo. Each group represents a major phase of development, from the early divergence from other apes to the appearance of more modern human ancestors.

263. (C) The Pre-Australopiths.

The narrative of hominin evolution begins with the earliest forms that appeared close to the point of divergence from other apes. These ancestors, known as the Pre-Australopiths, represent the initial stage in the development of our lineage. Their fossil remains provide the foundational evidence for understanding the very first biological steps toward the eventual emergence of more modern human species.

264. (D) Increased brain size and advanced tool-making.

The appearance of the genus Homo during the Pleistocene represents a major shift in the story of human development. This genus is primarily distinguished from earlier ancestors by significant biological and cultural advancements. Key markers of this stage include a notable increase in brain size and the creation of more complex and sophisticated stone tool technologies essential for survival and adaptation.

265. (A) between the Pre-Australopiths and the emergence of the genus Homo.

In the chronological sequence of human evolution, the Australopiths occupy a central position. They are a successful and diverse group of early hominins that thrived primarily during the Pliocene and early Pleistocene. This placement puts them in the timeline after the initial Pre-Australopiths but before the eventual emergence of the genus Homo and its associated unique cultural developments.

266. (B) process by which modern humans populated the world.

Hypotheses regarding modern human dispersal are designed to explain the intricate processes and routes used to populate the globe. These models explore how anatomically and behaviorally modern populations moved across different continents and interacted with other archaic groups. This research focuses on the biological and cultural capacities that allowed for such a widespread and relatively rapid migration of modern humans.

267. (B) The genus Homo.

The ability of human populations to expand globally and adapt to diverse environments is a hallmark of evolutionary success. This capacity for widespread dispersal is intrinsically linked to the genus Homo. The biological and cultural advancements within this genus enabled ancestors to populate the earth and eventually replace or interact with other hominin groups during the later Pleistocene epoch.

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the biological changes within the hominin lineage, and the artifacts of ancient cultures. This multifaceted approach ensures that the chronological framework of geological time scales connects biological evolution with the development of diverse stone tool technologies during humanity's beginning.

252. (A) significant environmental change and hominin developmental milestones.

This transition represents a vital moment in the study of human origins because it links major geological changes to evolutionary progress. During this era, significant shifts in the environment occurred alongside foundational milestones in hominin development. Researchers analyze these phases to understand how planetary history and biological transformations coincided to shape the ancestors of humanity during this juncture.

253. (C) Miocene, Pliocene, Pleistocene, Holocene.

Geological history is organized into specific time divisions that reflect the earth's changing conditions. The sequence begins with the Miocene, followed by the Pliocene, both of which are part of the Late Tertiary Period. The subsequent Quaternary Period includes the Pleistocene and the Holocene epochs, marking the most recent stages of our planet's deep-time chronological framework in order.

254. (D) To provide a basis for dating and correlating geological strata.

Scientific methods used to establish the age of ancient layers are essential for prehistoric research. Tracking reversals in the earth's magnetic field through paleomagnetic records provides a reliable basis for dating and correlating geological strata. This process allows researchers to situate the emergence of hominin ancestors and their technological developments within a precise and accurate chronological history of prehistory.

255. (C) the trajectory of human biological and cultural evolution.

Environmental conditions during the Pleistocene epoch were marked by extreme and frequent changes. These intense climatic shifts played a critical role in shaping the biological and cultural trajectory of human evolution. By studying these fluctuations, prehistorians can better understand how our ancestors adapted to dynamic planetary changes and how these responses influenced the development of early hominin technologies.

256. (B) To establish a detailed chronology of global climate cycles.

Marine Isotopic Stages are essential analytical tools used to reconstruct the complex environmental history of the Pleistocene. These cycles are identified through oxygen isotope data retrieved from deep-sea sediment cores. They provide a high-resolution, global chronology of warming and cooling periods, which helps researchers understand the fluctuating climatic backdrop that influenced the evolutionary path of ancient hominin populations.

257. (D) fossilized flora and fauna to reconstruct past environments.

The field of biostratigraphy plays a vital role in interpreting ancient environments by focusing on fossilized remains. By examining plant and animal fossils within geological layers, researchers can infer local paleoenvironmental conditions. These biological traces serve as powerful proxies for climatic shifts, allowing for a detailed reconstruction of the landscapes and ecosystems where early human ancestors once lived and thrived.

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258. (A) a glacial or colder climatic phase.

Specific animal species serve as indicators of past environmental conditions. The discovery of remains from cold-adapted fauna, such as the woolly mammoth, within a geological layer provides strong evidence of a glacial or colder climatic phase. Such biostratigraphic data is used alongside other geochemical evidence to determine the prevailing temperature and environmental state during a particular prehistoric time period.

259. (C) a series of cyclical fluctuations between glacial and interglacial conditions.

The Pleistocene epoch is defined by its dynamic and severe environmental variability rather than stability. This period was characterized by a series of cyclical fluctuations involving alternating glacial and interglacial conditions. These

of humankind, while Europe provides a rich record of later art and technology. Additionally, South East Asia and China represent a combined region with distinct lithic traditions, offering a comprehensive and diverse global perspective on prehistoric development.

277. (D) appreciate the regional diversity and varied trajectories of cultural development.

A global perspective on prehistoric culture is essential because it acknowledges that human development was not uniform. By studying different regions, researchers can appreciate the diversity of adaptive strategies and the unique trajectories of cultural evolution. This approach helps avoid the assumption that technological progress followed the same single path everywhere across the many different continents of the world.

278. (B) may show significant differences from those in Europe and Africa.

Lithic traditions in the eastern part of the Old World often differ significantly from those found in the west. In regions like China and South East Asia, toolkits frequently lack the classic bifacial sequences common in Africa and Europe. This diversity suggests that hominin populations developed unique technological solutions based on their specific environmental needs and the materials available locally.

279. (C) Hominin dispersal, environmental pressures, and local innovation.

A comparative approach to global prehistory allows researchers to examine how various factors shaped human development. It helps unravel the complex relationship between the movement of hominin populations, the environmental pressures they faced, and the local innovations they created. Understanding these interactions is vital for constructing an accurate and nuanced picture of how diverse cultures emerged during the Pleistocene.

280. (D) The terminology can be distinct and specific to a particular region.

Cultural sequences in different parts of the world are often described using unique local terms. This regional terminology reflects the distinct trajectories and research histories of specific areas like Africa or Europe. Because human evolution did not unfold identically everywhere, these specialized terms are necessary to accurately describe the specific technological and behavioral developments found in different geographical zones.

281. (A) Early, Middle, and Late Stone Age.

In Africa, the long-term history of the Palaeolithic is organized into a specific tripartite framework. This system consists of the Early Stone Age, followed by the Middle Stone Age, and concluding with the Late Stone Age. Each stage represents a major phase of technological and cultural evolution, charting the progress of hominin ancestors on the continent over a vast timescale.

282. (B) The Early Stone Age (ESA).

The initial stages of technological development in Africa are contained within the Early Stone Age. This period encompasses both the Oldowan industry, known for its basic chopper tools, and the subsequent Acheulian industry, which introduced more complex bifacial handaxes. These traditions represent the earliest and longest-lasting phases of stone tool production in the history of human evolution in Africa.

283. (B) prepared-core techniques for flake production.

During the Middle Stone Age in Africa, there was a significant shift in how stone tools were manufactured. Hominins moved away from creating large cutting tools and began using prepared-core techniques. This method allowed for the systematic production of predetermined flakes, signaling a high degree of cognitive planning and a more efficient approach to creating sharp stone implements.

284. (A) The development of blade-based industries and microliths.

The Late Stone Age in Africa is defined by a high level of technological innovation and variability. This period saw the development of blade-based industries and the production of microliths, which are small, standardized stone components. These microliths were designed to be hafted into handles or shafts, creating complex composite tools that represent a peak in prehistoric technological sophistication.

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268. (A) advanced lithic technologies and symbolic behavior.

Evaluating the models of how humans populated the world requires examining evidence of advanced behavioral traits. Researchers look for archaeological traces such as sophisticated lithic technologies and symbolic expressions to understand the migration process. These cultural markers, combined with fossil and genetic data, reveal the capacities that enabled modern humans to successfully move into new and challenging global environments.

269. (C) The later stages of the Pleistocene.

The study of global expansion focuses on a specific period in the history of human evolution. While the roots of the hominin lineage go back much further, the dispersal of modern humans is primarily associated with the later stages of the Pleistocene epoch. This era witnessed the crucial transition where modern populations populated the earth and developed complex cultural behaviors.

270. (D) The geographical origin and nature of interaction with other hominins.

Scholarly debates regarding the dispersal of humans often focus on where the migration began and how groups interacted. Understanding the geographical origins of this movement and the nature of the relationships between migrating modern humans and existing archaic populations is central to the research. These questions are addressed through a multidisciplinary approach integrating fossil, archaeological, and genetic data.

271. (C) The manufacture of bifacially worked handaxes.

The Acheulian industry represents a major advancement in stone tool production compared to earlier traditions. Its defining feature is the bifacially worked handaxe, a tool shaped on both sides to create a sharp edge. This specific implement demonstrates a high level of skill, forethought, and standardization in manufacturing, marking a significant step in the cultural evolution of hominins.

272. (B) greater standardization and forethought in tool design.

Moving from the Oldowan to the Acheulian tradition signifies a substantial increase in cognitive and manual complexity. This progress is evident in the greater standardization and the significant forethought required to design and create bifacial tools. Unlike simpler earlier forms, these implements show that hominin ancestors were developing more advanced skills and planning capabilities in their tool-making processes.

273. (D) The Oldowan industry.

The technological history of the Stone Age begins with a foundational phase of tool production. The Oldowan industry is recognized as the earliest and simplest well-documented lithic technology. It is characterized by the manufacture of basic cores, simple choppers, and unmodified flakes, representing the initial stage of human ancestors using stone to create functional implements for their survival.

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274. (A) production of standardized blanks for specialized tools.

Later stages of Stone Age technology were marked by the development of sophisticated techniques for preparing stone cores. These advancements allowed for the systematic production of standardized blanks, such as flakes and blades. These blanks could then be modified into a wide variety of specialized tools, reflecting an increase in efficiency and technological versatility among later hominin populations.

275. (C) The growing cognitive and manual skills of hominins.

The progression of lithic technologies from simple forms to highly specialized tools serves as a record of human development. This technological trajectory mirrors the growing cognitive and manual capabilities of hominin ancestors over millions of years. Each advancement in tool-making reflects an increase in the skills and intelligence required to adapt to and manipulate the surrounding natural environment.

276. (A) Africa, Europe, and the region of South East Asia and China.

To understand the full scope of Palaeolithic history, researchers examine three major geographical zones. Africa is studied as the cradle

and complex history of human evolution and development.

245. (A) 3, 2, 4, 1

The integrated story of human prehistory follows a recognizable chronological sequence of biological and cultural milestones. This begins with the appearance of Pre-Australopiths in the Late Miocene. The timeline then moves to the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, marking the emergence of the genus Homo. This was followed by the flourishing of the Acheulian industry throughout the Pleistocene. Finally, the sequence concludes with the beginning of the Holocene epoch. Arranging these events correctly is fundamental for understanding the long-term progression of human evolution within its environmental context.

246. (C) Middle Stone Age

Archaeologists use characteristic manufacturing techniques and chronological data to classify archaeological sites. If a layer in Africa is dated to approximately 150,000 years ago and contains sophisticated flake tools produced from prepared cores, it is correctly classified as belonging to the Middle Stone Age. This period represents an intermediate stage of technological development in Africa, occurring between the earlier Early Stone Age and the subsequent Late Stone Age. It is characterized by increasingly complex cognitive skills and the diverse use of specialized tools by ancient human populations.

247. (B) Glacial and interglacial cycles

The Pleistocene epoch, which spanned from about 2.6 million years ago until roughly 11,700 years ago, was a time of immense environmental instability. It is famously characterized by recurring glacial and interglacial cycles, during which massive continental ice sheets expanded and contracted globally. These dramatic shifts in climate created intense selective pressures that directly influenced human evolution, driving biological adaptations in brain size and dental structure, as well as the development of increasingly complex cultural strategies for survival and migration throughout the majority of the Quaternary Period.

248. (B) Lithic technologies

In the study of prehistory, the term cultural backdrop refers specifically to the long-term co-evolution of hominins and their material culture, primarily their lithic technologies. Because stone tools are durable and remain in the record for millions of years, they provide the most consistent and detailed evidence for studying the behavioral history of our ancestors. By analyzing how these tool traditions changed from simple choppers to complex blades, archaeologists can reconstruct the technical skills, cognitive developments, and adaptive strategies that accompanied the biological evolution of the human lineage.

249. (C) West Asia: Middle Palaeolithic

While human technological progress followed similar trends, the terms used by archaeologists vary by region. A correct pairing of a region and its terminology is West Asia with the Middle Palaeolithic. West Asian archaeology traditionally follows the European model, which includes the terms Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic. Other pairings, like Europe with the Early Stone Age or Africa with the Upper Palaeolithic, are inaccurate because they mix regional systems. Understanding these specific designations is essential for accurately communicating and interpreting the global archaeological record of ancient human history.

250. (A) Cultural developments

Gaining a complete and detailed understanding of human history requires an integrated approach that looks at the past through multiple lenses. The comprehensive study of human prehistory requires a scientific understanding of the geological context for the environment and timeline, the biological dimension for physical evolution, and the cultural developments for technology and behavior. By integrating these three perspectives, researchers can reconstruct the complex and multifaceted process of how our ancestors emerged, adapted to environmental challenges, and developed the various traditions that define our ancient beginnings.

251. (B) Geological, biological, and cultural dimensions.

The reconstruction of prehistoric human origins is an interdisciplinary effort. It synthesizes evidence from the earth's physical history,

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285. (C) greater cognitive planning evidenced by prepared-core methods.

The transition between these two stages in Africa indicates an advancement in the mental abilities of hominins. Moving toward the Middle Stone Age reflects enhanced cognitive planning, specifically seen in the adoption of prepared-core methods for producing flakes. This change shows a move away from simpler traditions toward more systematic and predetermined ways of manufacturing essential stone tools.

286. (D) Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic.

In Europe and West Asia, the sequence of prehistoric cultural change is traditionally organized into three main divisions. These are the Lower Palaeolithic, the Middle Palaeolithic, and the Upper Palaeolithic. This framework provides a parallel but distinct narrative to the African system, focusing on the specific technological markers and hominin successions that occurred within these northern and western regions.

287. (C) the prevalence of flake-based technologies like the Mousterian.

The Middle Palaeolithic period in the European region is defined by a focus on efficient flake production. It is most notably associated with the Mousterian industry, which utilized prepared-core techniques. This era is strongly linked to Neanderthals and signifies a technological shift where hominins focused on creating a wide variety of flakes from carefully shaped stone cores for various uses.

288. (B) the emergence of sophisticated blade industries and widespread symbolic art.

The Upper Palaeolithic in Europe is considered a major revolution due to the sudden increase in cultural complexity. It is characterized by the emergence of sophisticated blade-and-burin industries and the use of bone, antler, and ivory. Crucially, this period marks the first widespread appearance of symbolic expression, including personal ornaments and the creation of spectacular, detailed cave art.

289. (D) Acheulian.

The earliest division of the Palaeolithic in Europe is largely defined by a specific type of stone tool technology. The Acheulian industry, which features the iconic bifacial handaxe, is a primary marker of the Lower Palaeolithic. Although other industries existed, the presence and persistence of these handaxes provide a key developmental marker for this long period of European cultural history.

290. (A) regionally specific research histories and cultural trajectories.

The use of different terms for African and European prehistoric sequences reflects the distinct research traditions and cultural paths of each region. While both systems cover a similar chronological span, they highlight the specific developmental markers unique to their respective geographies. This terminology emphasizes that human evolution and cultural innovation varied significantly across different parts of the Old World.

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291. (C) distinct from the classic models of Africa and Europe.

Palaeolithic developments in China and South East Asia are distinct from the classic models established for Africa and Europe. Instead of following the same technological path, the sequences in these eastern regions reveal a different pattern. This uniqueness underscores the importance of considering diverse regional trajectories when studying the global history of human evolution and technological change.

292. (A) The prevalence of simpler core and flake tools.

For a long period during the Pleistocene, the stone toolkits found in China and South East Asia maintained a specific character. These assemblages are often dominated by simpler core and flake tools. This chopper-chopping tool tradition is a notable feature of the region, differing from the more complex bifacial traditions that were common in the west during the same era.

293. (D) a different adaptive strategy potentially involving non-lithic materials like bamboo.

The unique technological trajectory seen in East Asian prehistory suggests that ancestors there utilized different adaptive strategies. Scholars propose that these populations might have relied

reflecting different historical traditions in the development of archaeological research.

232. (C) Homo – Pliocene and Pleistocene

To understand the history of our lineage, it is essential to correctly match hominin groups with their geological context. The genus Homo first appeared near the end of the Pliocene and flourished throughout the subsequent Pleistocene epoch. This timeframe encompasses the early diversification of the genus, its expansion into various environments, and the eventual emergence of modern humans. Other pairings, such as placing Australopiths in the Holocene or modern humans in the Miocene, are inaccurate reflections of the established fossil record and chronological framework of human evolution.

233. (B) Interplay of various complex factors

The scientific study of human beginnings recognizes that the past cannot be understood through any single lens. Studying the prehistoric beginning as a multidimensional process means that researchers must look at the interplay of various complex factors. This involves analyzing how geological shifts, climatic changes, biological evolution, and technological innovations influenced and shaped each other over millions of years. This integrated approach allows for a more complete and detailed reconstruction of the multifaceted process through which our species emerged and adapted to the challenges of the ancient world.

234. (A) Acheulian

The archaeological record reveals a clear and recognizable chronological sequence of major stone tool traditions. The Acheulian industry, famous for its bifacial hand axes and cleavers, is situated between the earlier, simpler Oldowan industry and the later flake-based industries of the Middle Palaeolithic or Middle Stone Age. This intermediate position marks a significant phase of technological growth, where early human ancestors developed more complex flaking techniques and standardized tool forms that persisted for over a million years across vast regions of Africa, Europe, and Asia.

235. (D) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

The study of prehistory is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary field that integrates several different elements. It correctly includes geological markers like the Plio-Pleistocene boundary, climatic data from Marine Isotopic Stages, and the biostratigraphy of the Pleistocene. Furthermore, it encompasses the study of hominin groups like the Australopiths and symbolic behaviors seen in prehistoric art. All five of these elements are essential parts of the modern framework used by scientists to reconstruct the complex biological, cultural, and environmental history of our ancient ancestors.

236. (B) Major environmental and climatic changes

The environment is a primary driver of evolutionary and cultural shifts. A key topic for the study of the Pleistocene epoch is its major environmental and climatic changes. This epoch was defined by recurring cycles of extreme glaciations and warmer interglacial periods, which dramatically reshaped the landscapes that early humans inhabited. These fluctuations forced ancestral populations to adapt, migrate, or develop new technologies to survive, thereby creating the intense selective pressures that influenced the physical and behavioral development of the hominin lineage throughout the majority of the Quaternary Period.

237. (B) Developing cognitive and technical skills

The archaeological record of stone tools provides a unique window into the minds of our ancestors. The evolution of stone implements from simple core-and-flake forms to complex, standardized blades over millions of years is a key indicator of developing cognitive and technical skills. These technological advancements demonstrate a growing ability to plan complex sequences of actions, understand the properties of different raw materials, and create specialized tools to solve environmental challenges. Tracing this technical progression allows researchers to map the long-term cognitive growth of the human lineage.

238. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Human evolutionary research is structured around several major themes that provide a complete picture of our history. It is true that evolutionary studies track the human lineage

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CHAPTER 03

Palaeolithic Cultures of the Indian Subcontinent

1. Which of the following geographical regions is most famously associated with the Sohan industry and the Potwar Plateau sites?
(A) The Deccan Traps
(B) The Sivalik hills
(C) The Eastern Ghats
(D) The Coromandel Coast

2. What is the primary characteristic that defines the Sohan industry within the Lower Palaeolithic?
(A) The use of pebble-based choppers and chopping tools.
(B) The extensive utilization of blade and burin tools.
(C) The systematic manufacture of microlithic tools.
(D) The exclusive application of the Levallois technique.

3. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Belan and Son valleys provide a comprehensive sequence of Stone Age cultures.
Statement II : The Acheulian industry is characterized by the absence of handaxes.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

4. The significant Palaeolithic site of Attirampakkam is located in which river valley?
(A) Narmada valley
(B) Son valley
(C) Krishna valley
(D) Kortlayar valley

5. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic tool type of the Lower Palaeolithic culture?
(A) Handaxe
(B) Cleaver
(C) Blade
(C) Chopper

6. The prepared core technique is another name for which significant lithic technology?
(A) The Acheulian bifacial method
(B) The Levallois technique
(C) The Sohanian unifacial method
(D) The blade production technique

7. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Narmada and Sabarmati valleys are rich in Acheulian sites.
Reason (R) : These river valleys provided abundant supplies of suitable raw materials like quartzite and perennial water sources, attracting Palaeolithic populations.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

8. The sand dune designated as '16R', known for its evidence of Palaeolithic occupation in an arid zone, is located at which site?
(A) Didwana
(B) Jwalapuram
(C) Hunsgi
(D) Patne

9. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Palaeolithic Culture)
P. Lower Palaeolithic
Q. Middle Palaeolithic
R. Upper Palaeolithic

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S. Sohan Industry

List II: (Characteristic Tool/Technique)

1. Blade and Bone implements
2. Prepared Core Technique
3. Handaxe and Cleaver
4. Pebble Tools

Codes:

(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

10. Which statement about the geographical spread of Middle Palaeolithic culture is most accurate?
(A) It shows widespread distribution across varied subcontinent eco-zones.
(B) It was strictly localized to the Sivalik hill range systems.
(C) It was found only in the southern peninsula of the subcontinent.
(D) It is completely absent from the Narmada river valley record.

11. Consider the following statements about the Upper Palaeolithic culture:
1. It is marked by the appearance of blade and burin technologies.
2. Bone implements, such as harpoons and needles, become more common.
3. The culture is geographically restricted to the Belan valley only.
4. It precedes the Middle Palaeolithic in the chronological sequence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4
(D) 3 and 4 only

12. The term lithic technology in the context of Palaeolithic studies refers to:
(A) The analysis of ancient sedimentary rock formations.
(B) The techniques and methods used to produce stone tools.
(C) The architectural use of stones for building shelters.
(D) The specific chronological dating of ancient stone layers.

13. The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys, known for their rich Acheulian assemblages, are located in the modern-day state of:
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Karnataka
(D) Tamil Nadu

14. Consider the following tool technologies:
1. Blade and burin production
2. Levallois technique
3. Acheulian biface flaking
4. Pebble tool manufacturing

Which of the following is the correct chronological order of their appearance?
(A) 4, 3, 2, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 3, 4, 1, 2
(D) 4, 2, 3, 1

15. What is the primary significance of prehistoric art found in the Indian context?
(A) It offers insights into social, economic, and aesthetic life.
(B) It serves as a decorative element lacking deeper cultural meaning.
(C) It is found exclusively as descriptions in ancient written texts.
(D) It depicts only simple and repetitive abstract geometric patterns.

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16. Which of the following is an incorrect pairing of a Palaeolithic site and its geographical region?
(A) Sohan Valley - Sivalik hills
(B) Attirampakkam - Narmada valley
(C) Didwana - Playas of Rajasthan
(D) Jwalapuram - Andhra Pradesh

17. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Levallois technique represents a significant cognitive leap in tool manufacturing.
Reason (R) : It involves pre-determining the shape of the final flake tool on the core before detaching it, indicating advanced planning.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct

explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

18. The Palaeolithic site of Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh is particularly significant for its association with:
(A) Volcanic ash layers linked to the Toba super-eruption.
(B) The earliest confirmed evidence of prehistoric rock art.
(C) A unique pebble tool industry unrelated to the Sohan.
(D) The largest collection of bone tools found in India.

19. Consider the following statements about the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian industry:
1. It is characterized by bifacially worked tools like handaxes.
2. It has a wide distribution in major river valleys such as the Narmada and Godavari.
3. The raw materials used were often locally available quartzites.
4. Cleavers are a common component of Acheulian assemblages.
5. It is chronologically later than the Upper Palaeolithic.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) All of the above

20. The primary tool kit of the Middle Palaeolithic is best described as being based on:
(A) Pebbles
(B) Blades
(C) Cores
(D) Flakes

21. Identify the correct statement regarding the antiquity of prehistoric art in the Indian context.
(A) Its origins are firmly placed in the Lower Palaeolithic period.
(B) All prehistoric art in India dates to the historical period.
(C) Earliest art is linked with the Upper Palaeolithic and later.
(D) There is no evidence of prehistoric art in the subcontinent.

22. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Geographical Feature/Region)
P. Potwar Plateau
Q. Kortlayar Valley
R. Didwana
S. Belan Valley
List II: (Associated Site/Culture)
1. Attirampakkam
2. Dune 16R
3. Sohan Industry
4. Comprehensive Palaeolithic sequence

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

23. Which cultural phase is considered a technological bridge between the Lower and Upper Palaeolithic, characterized by flake-based tools?
(A) The Neolithic
(B) The Sohanian
(C) The Chalcolithic
(D) The Middle Palaeolithic

24. Acheulian sites found in association with ancient saline lake beds are a characteristic feature of the Palaeolithic record in:
(A) The Playas of Rajasthan
(B) The Kortlayar Valley
(C) The Sivalik Hills
(D) The Krishna Valley

25. The transition from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic is primarily marked by a shift from:
(A) Stone tools to metal tools.
(B) Hunting-gathering to agriculture.
(C) Core tool industries to flake tool industries.
(D) Flake tools to blade tools.

26. Which of the following is a key technological feature of the Upper Palaeolithic that distinguishes it from the Middle Palaeolithic?
(A) Systematic production of long, parallel-

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44. Which of the following statements about the antiquity of the Sohan industry is the most accurate based on geo-chronological evidence from the Sivalik hills?
(A) It is contemporary with the later Neolithic.
(B) It is an early Lower Palaeolithic culture.
(C) It dates back to the Iron Age period.
(D) It appeared after the Middle Palaeolithic.

45. The presence of Acheulian tools in the Belan and Son valleys indicates:
(A) The isolation of this region from the rest of the subcontinent.
(B) A cultural connection and spread of technology across different river systems.
(C) The absence of human occupation during the Lower Palaeolithic.
(D) The exclusive practice of a pebble-tool industry.

46. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The study of Didwana dune 16R is crucial for understanding Palaeolithic adaptations to arid environments.
Reason (R) : The site contains stratified layers of Palaeolithic tools within sand dunes, reflecting periods of human activity during fluctuating climatic conditions.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

47. In the context of Palaeolithic technology, what is a blade?
(A) A flake twice as long as wide with parallel edges.
(B) Any sharp piece of stone tool found in a site.
(C) A heavy core tool used for chopping ancient wood.
(D) A round, polished stone used for grinding grain.

48. The geographical distribution of prehistoric art in the Indian context is:
(A) Evenly spread across every state of India.
(B) Widespread, but with major concentrations in central India and the Deccan.
(C) Limited to only one site in Tamil Nadu.
(D) Found only in the Sivalik hill region.

49. Which of the following is the most appropriate description of the Middle Palaeolithic tool kit?
(A) Light-duty flake tools: scrapers, points, and borers.
(B) A heavy-duty toolkit dominated by handaxes and cleavers.
(C) A microlithic toolkit with an emphasis on geometric shapes.
(D) A polished stone toolkit designed for agricultural purposes.

50. The sites in the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys are particularly noted for their:
(A) Extensive Acheulian seasonal settlement patterns.
(B) Well-preserved bone tools from the Upper Palaeolithic.
(C) Unique Sohanian pebble tool assemblages in the south.
(D) The oldest cave paintings in the entire subcontinent.

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51. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Upper Palaeolithic in India is marked by a diversification of tool types and the use of new raw materials like bone.
Statement II : The climate during much of the Upper Palaeolithic was generally warmer and wetter than today.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

52. The spread of the Acheulian industry into major river valleys like the Krishna and the Godavari suggests:
(A) An adaptation to coastal environments only.
(B) The inability of Acheulian people to cross large rivers.
(C) A cultural decline compared to the preceding

3. The Belan and Son valleys show a long sequence of occupation.
4. Didwana provides key evidence for Palaeolithic life in an arid environment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

36. All of the following river valleys are known for significant Acheulian industry sites EXCEPT:
(A) Narmada valley
(B) Godavari valley
(C) Hunsgi valley
(D) Indus valley (in its upper reaches near Harappa)

37. The increase in the use of bone for making tools like points, awls, and harpoons is a hallmark of which cultural period?
(A) Sohan Industry
(B) Acheulian Industry
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Middle Palaeolithic

38. Consider the following sites/regions:
1. Kortlayar Valley
2. Sohan Valley
3. Narmada Valley
4. Hunsgi Valley

Which of the following is the correct order of these regions from north to south?
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 1, 4, 3, 2
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

39. The main objective of the prepared core technique was to:
(A) Manufacture heavy bifacial handaxes.
(B) Engrave artistic patterns on rock.
(C) Reduce the labor of quarrying stone.
(D) Produce flakes of standardized shapes.

40. An archaeological assemblage dominated by side-scrapers, end-scrapers, points, and borers made on flakes would be classified as:
(A) Middle Palaeolithic
(B) Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Sohanian

41. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Site)
P. Didwana
Q. Hunsgi
R. Attirampakkam
S. Jwalapuram
List II: (State)
1. Karnataka
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Rajasthan

Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

42. The Acheulian industrial complex is geographically widespread, but which region is particularly associated with the pebble-tool based Sohan industry?
(A) The Sivalik hills of the Potwar Plateau
(B) The Krishna and Godavari valleys
(C) The Kortlayar valley in Tamil Nadu
(D) The Playas of Rajasthan

43. Consider the following statements about the Palaeolithic cultural developments in the Indian subcontinent:
1. The Lower Palaeolithic is broadly divided into the Sohan and Acheulian industries.
2. The Middle Palaeolithic is characterized by the predominance of flake tools.
3. The Upper Palaeolithic witnessed the development of blade and bone tool technologies.
4. Prehistoric art is considered to have its beginnings in the Upper Palaeolithic phase.
5. The Levallois technique was invented during the Upper Palaeolithic.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) All of the above

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sided blades.
(B) The first archaeological use of stone for tool making.
(C) The exclusive utilization of unifacial pebble tools.
(D) The complete absence of core tools in the assemblage.

27. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Son valley, like the Belan valley, is significant for yielding a sequence of Palaeolithic industries.
Statement II : The Acheulian industry completely replaced the Sohan industry without any period of overlap or interaction.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

28. The geo-chronology of the Indian Stone Age is primarily established through the study of:
(A) Ancient written inscriptions and coinage.
(B) Terraces, sediments, and palaeoclimatic data.
(C) Folklore and regional oral traditions.
(D) Monumental and architectural remains.

29. Consider the following tool types:
1. Scrapers
2. Points
3. Borers
4. Cleavers

Which of the above are typically associated with the Middle Palaeolithic culture?
(A) 1, 2, and 3
(B) 1 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3, and 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

30. The distribution of prehistoric art in India shows that it was most commonly created on:
(A) Fired clay tablets.
(B) Open-air rock surfaces exposed to the elements.
(C) The floors of Palaeolithic huts.
(D) The walls and ceilings of rock shelters and caves.

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31. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Belan Valley is often called a 'textbook' of Indian prehistory.
Reason (R) : It has yielded an uninterrupted cultural sequence from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Iron Age in a stratified context.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

32. The term 'Acheulian' for the Lower Palaeolithic industry is derived from a site in:
(A) India
(B) France
(C) Africa
(D) England

33. Which of the following best describes the geographic relationship between the Sohan Valley and the Potwar Plateau?
(A) The Potwar Plateau is a small section within the much larger Sohan Valley.
(B) The Sohan Valley is a river valley located within the Potwar Plateau.
(C) The two are distinct and geographically unrelated regions.
(D) The Sohan Valley is in South India, while the Potwar Plateau is in the north.

34. A key element of the Levallois technique involves:
(A) Controlling flake shape by shaping the core.
(B) Randomly striking a core for usable flakes.
(C) Grinding stone to achieve a polished edge.
(D) Attaching points to wood to create spears.

35. Consider the following statements regarding geo-chronology and Stone Age cultures:
1. The Sivalik hills are crucial for understanding the earliest phases of the Stone Age.
2. The Kortlayar valley has yielded some of the oldest Palaeolithic tools in the subcontinent.

Sohan industry.
(D) The successful expansion of hominins across landscapes.

53. Consider the following statements about lithic technologies:
1. The Sohan industry primarily used pebbles as raw material.
2. The Acheulian industry is defined by its bifacial handaxes.
3. The Levallois technique is a hallmark of the Middle Palaeolithic.
4. Blade production is a key feature of the Upper Palaeolithic.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

54. The term 'playa' in the context of Rajasthan's prehistory refers to:
(A) A type of Palaeolithic stone tool.
(B) A shallow, temporary lake bed in an arid region.
(C) An ancient river terrace.
(D) A limestone rock shelter.

55. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Middle Palaeolithic - Chopper-Chopping tools
(B) Upper Palaeolithic - Handaxes
(C) Lower Palaeolithic - Blade and Burin
(D) Middle Palaeolithic - Levallois technique

56. Chronologically, the Acheulian industry in the Indian subcontinent is placed within the:
(A) Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Upper Palaeolithic
(C) Middle Palaeolithic
(D) Mesolithic

57. The evidence from Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh is crucial for discussing the potential impact of which major global event on Palaeolithic populations in India?
(A) The last glacial maximum.
(B) The beginning of the Holocene.
(C) The Toba volcanic super-eruption.
(D) The formation of the Himalayas.

58. What was the primary raw material for making Acheulian tools in river valley sites like Narmada and Sabarmati?
(A) Quartzite
(B) Bone and Ivory
(C) Chert and Jasper
(D) Clay

59. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Technology/Industry)
P. Sohan
Q. Acheulian
R. Middle Palaeolithic
S. Upper Palaeolithic
List II: (Primary Tool Type)
1. Cleaver
2. Scraper on Flake
3. Burin
4. Chopper

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

60. All the following are characteristic features of the Upper Palaeolithic culture in India EXCEPT:
(A) The appearance of blade tools.
(B) The first appearance of pottery.
(C) The use of bone for making tools.
(D) The beginnings of prehistoric art.

61. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Prehistoric art, such as rock paintings, provides non-utilitarian evidence of the cognitive and symbolic capacities of early humans.
Reason (R) : The subjects depicted, including hunting scenes and ritualistic figures, go beyond mere survival needs and reflect a complex worldview.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.

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(D) A is false but R is true.

62. The cultural phase immediately following the Lower Palaeolithic and preceding the Upper Palaeolithic is:
(A) Middle Palaeolithic
(B) Neolithic
(C) Mesolithic
(D) Chalcolithic

63. The Son valley is a tributary of which major river system, making it a crucial corridor for Palaeolithic populations?
(A) Ganga
(B) Indus
(C) Godavari
(D) Narmada

64. Consider the following statements regarding the Lower Palaeolithic in the Indian subcontinent:
1. It is represented by two main traditions: the Sohan and the Acheulian.
2. The Sohan is a pebble-tool tradition found in the Sivaliks.
3. The Acheulian, with its handaxes and cleavers, has a much wider distribution.
4. The site of Attirampakkam in the Kortlayar valley has provided very early dates for the Acheulian.
5. The entire Lower Palaeolithic period used only bone tools.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

65. A high concentration of Acheulian sites in the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys is attributed by archaeologists to:
(A) The region being a major religious center.
(B) Availability of springs and quality limestone.
(C) Its strategic location on ancient trade routes.
(D) The complete absence of large predators.

66. The shift to smaller, lighter tools made on flakes during the Middle Palaeolithic is thought to be related to:
(A) Increased mobility and changing tool task needs.
(B) A decrease in the cognitive abilities of hominins.
(C) A scarcity of large rock boulders in the landscape.
(D) The invention and expansion of agriculture.

67. What is a 'burin'?
(A) A heavy stone hammer used for breaking bones.
(B) A type of Middle Palaeolithic scraper.
(C) A chisel-like tool for engraving bone and wood.
(D) A large, flat stone used for grinding grain.

68. The study of geo-chronology helps archaeologists to:
(A) Understand the symbolic meaning of prehistoric art.
(B) Reconstruct the diet of Palaeolithic people.
(C) Establish a timeline for stone tool industries and human occupation.
(D) Decipher ancient scripts.

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69. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Acheulian industry shows a remarkable degree of uniformity in tool design over vast geographical areas.
Statement II : The Sohan industry is found all over the Indian subcontinent, from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

70. The Palaeolithic sequence in the Belan valley is particularly valuable because:
(A) It is the only site with evidence of the Sohan industry.
(B) The cultural material is found in a clear, stratified context associated with river deposits.
(C) It has the world's oldest dated rock art.
(D) It shows evidence of early metal-working.

71. Consider the following statements about Middle Palaeolithic lithic technology:
1. It relied heavily on the production of large core tools like handaxes.
2. The prepared core technique was a key innovation.
3. It shows a preference for fine-grained stones like chert and jasper where available.
4. Tool types include scrapers, borers, and points on flakes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 3 and 4
(D) 1 and 4 only

72. The presence of Palaeolithic tools in the stratified dune profile of 16R at Didwana is evidence of:
(A) Hominin presence in the Thar Desert region during periods of better climate.
(B) The first use of fire in India.
(C) Early agricultural practices in Rajasthan.
(D) A large, permanent settlement.

73. The primary distinction between a handaxe and a cleaver is:
(A) Their raw material from which they are made.
(B) Their chronological period.
(C) The shape of their working edge (pointed vs. a broad, straight edge).
(D) Their size (handaxes are always smaller).

74. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Upper Palaeolithic period saw an increase in the diversity and specialization of stone tools.
Reason (R) : The development of blade and burin technology allowed for more efficient use of raw material and the creation of tools for specific tasks like engraving and cutting.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

75. In which cultural period of the Palaeolithic did bone implements begin to appear significantly in the archaeological record of India?
(A) Sohanian
(B) Acheulian
(C) Middle Palaeolithic
(D) Upper Palaeolithic

76. Consider the following developments:
1. Bone Needles
2. Cleavers
3. Flake-based Scrapers
4. Choppers

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of their general appearance in the Indian Palaeolithic record?
(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 1, 3, 2, 4

77. The study of the Palaeolithic cultures of the Krishna and Godavari valleys is important for understanding:
(A) The southward expansion of Acheulian populations.
(B) The prehistory of the Thar desert.
(C) The origins of the Sohan industry.
(D) The nature of prehistoric art in North India.

78. Which of the following statements about the Sohan industry is incorrect?
(A) It is named after the Sohan river, a tributary of the Indus.
(B) It is found extensively in the Belan and Son valleys.
(C) It is primarily a pebble tool industry.
(D) Its chronological position is within the Lower Palaeolithic.

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79. The technology of producing a series of blades from a single, prepared core is a defining characteristic of the:
(A) Upper Palaeolithic culture
(B) Oldowan culture
(C) Acheulian culture
(D) Mousterian culture

80. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.

List I: (Valley)
P. Sohan Valley
Q. Narmada Valley
R. Hunsgi Valley
S. Kortlayar Valley
List II: (General Location/State)
1. Karnataka
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Sivalik Hills (Pakistan)
4. Central India (Madhya Pradesh)
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

81. Geo-chronology in the context of the Stone Age refers to:
(A) The mapping of Stone Age sites.
(B) Earth history studies providing cultural timelines.
(C) A list of all known geological formations.
(D) The study of the geographical distribution of a specific tool type.

82. The Levallois technique is most characteristically associated with which period?
(A) Middle Palaeolithic
(B) Lower Palaeolithic
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Mesolithic

83. Consider the following statements about prehistoric art in India:
1. It is mainly found in the form of rock paintings.
2. The subjects often include animals, hunting scenes, and human figures.
3. The antiquity of this art is often traced back to the Upper Palaeolithic.
4. The paintings were exclusively made using a single color.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

84. Why are river valleys like the Narmada, Sabarmati, Belan, and Son so crucial for Palaeolithic studies in India?
(A) They were the only places where humans lived.
(B) They are the only sources of prehistoric art.
(C) They contain the only evidence of the Sohan industry.
(D) They preserve long, stratified tool and fossil sequences.

85. Which tool type is a bifacially flaked, pear-shaped or oval core tool that is a hallmark of the Acheulian industry?
(A) Chopper
(B) Burin
(C) Handaxe
(D) Scraper

86. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The shift from the Middle to the Upper Palaeolithic is not just a change in tool types but also reflects broader behavioral changes.
Reason (R) : The Upper Palaeolithic is associated with the emergence of art, personal adornments, and more complex bone tools, suggesting developments in symbolic thought and social complexity.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

87. The site of Attirampakkam in the Kortlayar valley is significant because it has provided evidence for:
(A) The largest hoard of Upper Palaeolithic bone tools.
(B) A continuous occupation from the Sohanian to the Neolithic.
(C) The only well-preserved Palaeolithic dwelling structures in India.
(D) A very early Acheulian presence in the Indian subcontinent.

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88. A tool assemblage consisting of choppers, chopping tools, and flakes, primarily made on quartzite pebbles and recovered from the terraces of the Sohan river, would be classified as:
(A) Sohan industry
(B) Acheulian
(C) Middle Palaeolithic
(D) Upper Palaeolithic

89. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The geographic distribution of the Acheulian industry in India is far more extensive than that of the Sohan industry.
Statement II : The Acheulian toolkit, with its handaxes and cleavers, appears to have been highly adaptable to different environments.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

90. The term 'prepared core' implies that the core was:
(A) Systematically shaped to produce a predetermined flake.
(B) Prepared for transportation to another site.
(C) Heated in a fire before flaking.
(D) The last tool to be made from a piece of rock.

91. Consider the following statements about the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys:
1. They are located in the state of Karnataka.
2. They are known for a high density of Lower Palaeolithic sites.
3. The primary raw material used for tools was locally available limestone.
4. Studies suggest seasonal occupation patterns by Acheulian groups.
5. These valleys contain the only evidence for the Sohan industry in South India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

92. The principal change in lithic technology from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic was the increased emphasis on:
(A) Core tools
(B) Flake tools
(C) Bone tools
(D) Microliths

93. The distribution of prehistoric rock art sites in India suggests that the artists were:
(A) Hunter-gatherer groups familiar with the local landscape and animal life.
(B) Sedentary farmers living in villages.
(C) Nomadic metal workers.
(D) Maritime traders from foreign lands.

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94. The Sivalik hills are a key region for studying the earliest stone industries of India because:
(A) They have the best-preserved rock paintings.
(B) They are the only source of quartzite in the subcontinent.
(C) They show an unbroken sequence up to the Iron Age.
(D) They contain datable deposits context for Sohan tools.

95. In the context of the Indian subcontinent, which culture is NOT part of the Palaeolithic period?
(A) Neolithic
(B) Acheulian
(C) Sohanian
(D) Mousterian (Middle Palaeolithic)

96. Which of the following is a defining feature of the Upper Palaeolithic lithic industry?
(A) The use of heavy, bifacially worked handaxes.
(B) Standardized blade production from prismatic cores.
(C) The predominance of unifacially worked pebble tools.
(D) The complete absence of any retouched tools.

97. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Cultural Period)
P. Lower Palaeolithic
Q. Middle Palaeolithic
R. Upper Palaeolithic
List II: (Key Technological/Cultural Feature)
1. Widespread use of Levallois technique
2. Appearance of Bone Tools and Art
3. Dominance of Handaxe-Cleaver complex
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-3
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-1

98. The geo-chronological context of Palaeolithic sites in the Potwar Plateau is primarily derived from the study of:
(A) River terraces of the Sohan river system.
(B) Marine sediments.
(C) Volcanic ash layers.
(D) Desert sand dunes.

99. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the Middle Palaeolithic of India.
(A) The tool kit is lighter compared to the Lower Palaeolithic.
(B) It is characterized by tools such as scrapers, borers and points.
(C) The primary tools were handaxes and cleavers.
(D) The Levallois technique was widely practiced.

100. The discovery of Acheulian sites in the Kortlayar valley, Krishna valley, and Godavari valley demonstrates the:
(A) Extensive geographical spread of the Acheulian culture in Peninsular India.
(B) Confinement of Palaeolithic people to northern India.
(C) Complete absence of the Middle Palaeolithic in these regions.
(D) Earliest evidence of boat-building technology.

101. What is the significance of the Jwalapuram site in Andhra Pradesh for understanding the Palaeolithic of India?
(A) It contains the oldest rock paintings in India.
(B) It is the only known Sohan industry site outside the Sivaliks.
(C) It shows a cultural layer sealed by volcanic ash marker.
(D) It has yielded a complete skeleton of a Palaeolithic hominin.

102. Consider the following developments:
1. Manufacture of blade tools
2. Manufacture of flake tools using Levallois technique
3. Manufacture of handaxes
4. Manufacture of pebble tools
Which of the following is the correct evolutionary sequence of these developments?
(A) 4, 3, 2, 1
(B) 3, 4, 1, 2
(C) 4, 2, 3, 1
(D) 2, 1, 4, 3

103. The term Acheulian refers to a widespread Lower Palaeolithic culture characterized by its distinctive:
(A) Pebble tools
(B) Bone harpoons
(C) Microlithic blades
(D) Bifacial handaxes and cleavers

104. Consider the following pairs:
1. Sohan Valley : Sivalik hills
2. Didwana : Rajasthan
3. Attirampakkam : Tamilnadu
4. Hunsgi : Madhya Pradesh
Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

105. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Upper Palaeolithic culture is associated with a significant increase in the use of bone, ivory, and antler for tool making.
Statement II : The lithic technology of the Upper Palaeolithic was less efficient than that of the Middle Palaeolithic.

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(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

106. The main difference between the Sohan and Acheulian industries lies in:
(A) The core tool typology (pebble tools vs. bifaces).
(B) Their geographical location only.
(C) The raw materials used.
(D) Their chronological age, with Sohan being much younger.

107. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The discovery of Palaeolithic tools in association with ancient playa lakes in Rajasthan is significant.
Reason (R) : It indicates that the now-arid Thar desert region experienced wetter climatic phases in the past, which could support hominin populations.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

108. Which of the following is a characteristic feature of the lithic technology of the Middle Palaeolithic?
(A) Refined prepared core technique for standardized flakes.
(B) The creation of large, crude chopping tools.
(C) The first use of stone as a raw material for tools.
(D) The mass production of microlithic tools for composite implements.

109. The themes depicted in Indian prehistoric art primarily revolve around:
(A) The portraits of kings and queens.
(B) The documentation of historical battles.
(C) Environment and subsistence activities of the people.
(D) The construction of large temples.

110. The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka are prime examples of:
(A) The only location where Upper Palaeolithic bone tools are found.
(B) A region where the Sohan and Acheulian industries co-existed.
(C) The southernmost extent of the Sivalik hill range.
(D) An area with a dense concentration of Acheulian sites.

111. Consider the following about the Palaeolithic cultural developments in India:
1. The Sohan Valley and Potwar Plateau are known for early Palaeolithic sites.
2. The Belan and Son valleys show a continuous cultural sequence.
3. Attirampakkam in Tamilnadu has yielded evidence of Lower Palaeolithic culture.
4. Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh is notable for its association with volcanic ash.
5. Didwana in Rajasthan provides evidence from an arid zone context.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 3, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

112. The term that describes the period characterized by blade and bone implements, as well as the first appearance of art, is:
(A) Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Upper Palaeolithic
(C) Middle Palaeolithic
(D) Sohanian

113. An archaeologist finds an assemblage dominated by various types of scrapers (side, end, transverse), points, and borers, all made on flakes. This assemblage most likely belongs to the:
(A) Acheulian tradition
(B) Middle Palaeolithic culture
(C) Sohan tradition
(D) Neolithic culture

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industry using prepared core techniques.
4. The Upper Palaeolithic is a blade-and-bone tool industry.
5. All these industries were contemporary and found in the same locations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(C) 3, 4, and 5 only
(D) All of the above

172. The term antiquity in the context of prehistoric art refers to:
(A) The aesthetic quality of the art.
(B) The great age or ancient origin of the art.
(C) The monetary value of the art.
(D) The size of the paintings.

173. The spread of Acheulian industries into river valleys like the Sabarmati was likely facilitated by:
(A) The development of advanced seafaring technology.
(B) The absence of any other human groups.
(C) The presence of abundant raw material and water.
(D) The construction of permanent settlements.

174. A key difference between Upper Palaeolithic and Middle Palaeolithic lithic technology is the Upper Palaeolithic's emphasis on:
(A) Using larger, heavier cores.
(B) Making tools exclusively from pebbles.
(C) Abandoning the use of retouch.
(D) Producing long, slender blades.

175. The Kortlayar river valley in Tamil Nadu is famous in Palaeolithic studies for which site?
(A) Attirampakkam
(B) Didwana
(C) Hunsgi
(D) Jwalapuram

176. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Concept/Technique)
P. Geo-chronology
Q. Levallois Technique
R. Biface
S. Blade

List II: (Description)
1. A flake at least twice as long as it is wide
2. A tool worked on two faces, e.g., a handaxe
3. A method of dating based on geological strata
4. A prepared core technique

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

177. The evidence from the Belan and Son valleys is critical because it shows:
(A) Only Lower Palaeolithic occupation.
(B) A long sequence of different Palaeolithic cultures in a stratified context.
(C) The earliest evidence of iron working in India.
(D) A unique culture completely isolated from the rest of India.

178. What does the widespread distribution of prehistoric art in rock shelters across India suggest?
(A) That creating art was an integral part of the life of many hunter-gatherer groups.
(B) That art was a specialized activity practiced by a few individuals.
(C) That art was only made for trade and exchange.
(D) That all rock shelters were used for artistic purposes.

179. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Acheulian industry shows a remarkable consistency in its main tool forms (handaxe, cleaver) over vast distances and long periods.
Reason (R) : This suggests a strong cultural tradition and transmission of knowledge for making these tools.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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124. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Middle Palaeolithic is often referred to as a flake tool culture.
Reason (R) : The tool kit is dominated by implements such as scrapers and points made on flakes, rather than heavy core tools like handaxes.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

125. The study of the Palaeolithic period in India primarily relies on:
(A) Written accounts from contemporary travelers.
(B) Megalithic burial monuments.
(C) Lithic artifacts and their geo-chronological context.
(D) Coinage and epigraphy.

126. The shift from the large, heavy tools of the Lower Palaeolithic to the smaller, lighter flake tools of the Middle Palaeolithic suggests a change in:
(A) Hominin species with lower intelligence.
(B) The complete abandonment of stone as a raw material.
(C) A move towards a purely vegetarian diet.
(D) Subsistence strategies and tool-use behavior.

127. The Potwar Plateau is a significant area for Palaeolithic research because it contains:
(A) The classic sites of the Sohan industry.
(B) The only Upper Palaeolithic sites in the subcontinent.
(C) The earliest evidence of prehistoric art.
(D) The type-site for the Acheulian industry.

128. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Acheulian industry, named after St. Acheul in France, has a near-global distribution in the Old World.
Statement II : In India, Acheulian sites are found in diverse ecological settings, from river valleys to rock shelters.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

129. The term 'lithic' is derived from the Greek word 'lithos', meaning:
(A) Bone
(B) Stone
(C) Time
(D) River

130. Consider the following statements about the Upper Palaeolithic in India:
1. It is characterized by blade and burin industries.
2. Bone tools become a significant part of the toolkit.
3. The first definite evidence of art appears in this period.
4. It is chronologically placed between the Middle Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic.
5. The only tools used were large handaxes.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

131. The primary function of a burin was likely for:
(A) Chopping down large trees.
(B) Grinding seeds and grains.
(C) Engraving or working softer materials like bone, antler, or wood.
(D) Heavy-duty butchering of large animals.

132. The Sabarmati valley is a well-known area for the discovery of:
(A) Upper Palaeolithic cave art.
(B) Sohanian pebble tools.
(C) Neolithic polished axes.
(D) Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tools.

133. The evidence from Didwana dune 16R in Rajasthan provides a crucial link between:
(A) Sohan and Acheulian industries.
(B) The Indian subcontinent and Southeast

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(D) Used for two different functions.

153. Consider the following statements about the site of Jwalapuram:
1. Jwalapuram is a site in Andhra Pradesh.
2. It has a significant layer of volcanic ash.
3. This ash is linked to the Toba super-eruption.
4. The site has yielded Palaeolithic artifacts from below and above the ash layer.
5. Jwalapuram is primarily known for its Sohanian industry.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 2 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

154. What is the main evidence for the antiquity of prehistoric art in India?
(A) All of the above mentioned evidence types.
(B) Radiocarbon dating of the pigments used.
(C) The style of the paintings and their superpositioning.
(D) Depiction of extinct animals and era-specific tools.

155. The geographical distribution of the Middle Palaeolithic culture in India can be described as:
(A) Found only in coastal areas.
(B) Absent from Peninsular India.
(C) Limited to the Sivalik region.
(D) Widespread, covering many parts of the subcontinent.

156. The Acheulian industry's presence in the Krishna and Godavari valleys indicates Palaeolithic human activity in the:
(A) Northernmost part of India.
(B) Eastern part of the Deccan Plateau.
(C) Thar Desert.
(D) Sivalik Hills.

157. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Son Valley is considered an important area for studying the transition from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic.
Reason (R) : The valley has yielded stratified sites showing a gradual change in tool technology from Acheulian handaxes to Middle Palaeolithic flake tools.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

158. The principal innovation of the Upper Palaeolithic was the development of:
(A) Polished stone tools
(B) Pottery
(C) Iron smelting
(D) Blade and burin technology

159. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Palaeolithic Phase)
P. Lower Palaeolithic (Sohan)
Q. Lower Palaeolithic (Acheulian)
R. Middle Palaeolithic
S. Upper Palaeolithic
List II: (Dominant Raw Material/Feature)
1. Flakes of chert, jasper, agate
2. Quartzite pebbles
3. Bone, antler
4. Quartzite boulders/nodules

Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

160. Which of the following best describes the significance of the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys?
(A) They represent the northernmost extent of the Acheulian culture.
(B) They provide a unique cluster of Acheulian sites, suggesting a specific settlement pattern.
(C) They are the only sites with evidence of the Levallois technique.
(D) They contain the earliest known burials in India.

161. Consider the following statements about the Acheulian industry in India:
1. It is characterized by handaxes and cleavers.
2. It has a pan-Indian distribution, absent only

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142. A major focus of the Upper Palaeolithic technology was the efficient production of:
(A) Handaxes
(B) Choppers
(C) Flakes from unprepared cores
(D) Blades from prepared cores

143. The Lower Palaeolithic culture in the Indian subcontinent is broadly divided into:
(A) The Sohan and Acheulian industries.
(B) The Blade and Burin industries.
(C) The Flake and Core industries.
(D) The Pre-Harappan and Harappan cultures.

144. The appearance of specialized tools like burins in the Upper Palaeolithic is indicative of:
(A) A decline in hunting activities.
(B) The development of new craft activities, such as working bone and wood.
(C) The beginning of agriculture.
(D) A return to simpler technologies.

145. Why is the Belan river valley considered a 'classic' area for the study of Indian prehistory?
(A) It is the location of the modern capital city.
(B) It is the only site in India with evidence of hominin fossils.
(C) It has yielded a continuous sequence of stone tool industries from the Lower Palaeolithic onwards.
(D) It contains the oldest rock art in the world.

146. Which of the following is the most defining characteristic of the Acheulian lithic industry?
(A) The systematic production of bifacial tools like handaxes and cleavers.
(B) The exclusive use of pebble tools.
(C) The predominance of microliths.
(D) The use of the Levallois technique.

147. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : Prehistoric art found in rock shelters is a source for understanding the worldview and symbolic behavior of Palaeolithic people.
Statement II : The distribution of rock art sites is often linked to the availability of suitable rock shelters in areas frequented by hunter-gatherers.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

148. What do the Palaeolithic sites associated with the Playas of Rajasthan suggest about the past environment of the region?
(A) The region has always been an extreme desert.
(B) The region was once covered by a dense tropical forest.
(C) The region was a high-altitude, glaciated landscape.
(D) The region experienced wetter phases in the past that supported life.

149. The technological shift to flake-based tools in the Middle Palaeolithic from the core-based tools of the Lower Palaeolithic signifies:
(A) A decline in craftsmanship.
(B) The abandonment of hunting.
(C) A more economical use of raw material.
(D) The first use of fire.

150. Consider the following sites/regions:
1. Belan Valley
2. Didwana
3. Potwar Plateau
Which of the following is the correct order of these sites from west to east?
(A) 2, 3, 1
(B) 3, 2, 1
(C) 1, 2, 3
(D) 2, 1, 3

151. The primary tools of the Sohan industry are:
(A) Handaxes and Cleavers
(B) Choppers and Chopping tools
(C) Blades and Burins
(D) Microliths and Points

152. In Palaeolithic terminology, biface refers to a tool that is:
(A) Worked on both faces.
(B) Worked on one face only.
(C) Made from two different types of stone.

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114. The transition from making tools from the core to making tools on the flakes struck from the core marks the shift from:
(A) Lower to Middle Palaeolithic
(B) Upper to Middle Palaeolithic
(C) Middle to Lower Palaeolithic
(D) Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

115. A 'cleaver' is a Lower Palaeolithic tool distinguished by:
(A) Its pointed working end for piercing.
(B) Its small size, suitable for hafting.
(C) Its broad, transverse (straight) cutting edge.
(D) Its manufacture from a bone.

116. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Region/Valley)
P. Sivalik Hills
Q. Belan Valley
R. Kortlayar Valley
S. Didwana
List II: (Key Significance/Site)
1. Attirampakkam
2. Dune 16R
3. Sohan Industry
4. Classic Palaeolithic Sequence
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

117. The significance of the Belan and Son valley sites lies in their:
(A) Exclusive evidence of Upper Palaeolithic culture.
(B) Rich deposits of marine fossils.
(C) Long and stratified sequence of Palaeolithic industries.
(D) Unique preservation of wooden artifacts.

118. Which statement correctly describes the geographical spread of the Acheulian industry?
(A) It was widely distributed across major river valleys of the subcontinent.
(B) It was confined to the Sohan valley.
(C) It was found only in the playas of Rajasthan.
(D) It is completely absent from South India.

119. The antiquity of prehistoric art in the Indian context is generally associated with which period?
(A) Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Middle Palaeolithic
(C) Iron Age
(D) Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

120. Consider the following statements:
1. Handaxes are characteristic tools of the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian industry.
2. The Levallois technique is a method for producing flakes of a predetermined shape.
3. Bone implements are a notable feature of the Upper Palaeolithic.
4. The Sohan industry is primarily a blade-and-burin industry.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

121. The Palaeolithic sites in the Narmada valley are important for:
(A) The presence of Sohanian tools only.
(B) The discovery of the earliest pottery in India.
(C) Their location within the Sivalik geological formations.
(D) The rich concentration of Acheulian assemblages, often with animal fossils.

122. The development of blade technology in the Upper Palaeolithic was a significant advancement because:
(A) It required less skill than making handaxes.
(B) It produced more cutting edge from a given amount of raw material.
(C) It marked the end of stone tool use.
(D) The blades were primarily used for agriculture.

123. Which of the following is NOT a major region for Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian sites?
(A) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands
(B) The Narmada and Sabarmati valleys
(C) The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys
(D) The Belan and Son valleys

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in a few regions.
3. Key sites are located in the Narmada, Sabarmati, and Son valleys.
4. It is chronologically older than the Sohan industry.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

162. The Palaeolithic cultural development in the Indian subcontinent is a story of:
(A) Continuous technological and adaptive evolution over a vast period.
(B) Stagnation and lack of change.
(C) The rapid adoption of agriculture.
(D) The influence of a single, unchanging environment.

163. The primary goal of the Levallois technique was to:
(A) Maximize the size of the core.
(B) Create artistic patterns on the stone.
(C) Produce flakes of a predetermined shape and size.
(D) Make the tool easier to hold.

164. In contrast to the Lower Palaeolithic focus on core tools, the Middle Palaeolithic is defined by a focus on:
(A) Bone tools
(B) Microliths
(C) Polished tools
(D) Flake tools

165. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Upper Palaeolithic period witnessed a proliferation of art and symbolic objects.
Statement II : This development suggests a growing complexity in human cognition and social communication.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is a valid interpretation of Statement I.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not related to Statement I.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

166. The sites of the Sohan industry are found on the river terraces of the:
(A) Narmada and its tributaries.
(B) Sohan and other rivers of the Potwar Plateau.
(C) Godavari and Krishna.
(D) Belan and Son.

167. All of the following are associated with the Upper Palaeolithic culture EXCEPT:
(A) Bone implements
(B) The beginnings of art
(C) Handaxes
(D) Blade tools

168. The archaeological record from Didwana's sand dunes is crucial for reconstructing the:
(A) Tectonic history of the Himalayas.
(B) Palaeoenvironment of the Thar Desert region.
(C) Early maritime trade routes.
(D) Origins of the Indus Valley Civilization.

169. What is the chronological order of the Palaeolithic cultures in India?
(A) Middle, Lower, Upper
(B) Upper, Middle, Lower
(C) Lower, Middle, Upper
(D) Lower, Upper, Middle

170. Which of the following is NOT a tool type of the Middle Palaeolithic?
(A) Cleaver
(B) Scraper
(C) Point
(D) Borer

171. Consider the following statements regarding the major Palaeolithic traditions:
1. The Sohan industry is a pebble-tool industry of the Sivaliks.
2. The Acheulian is a handaxe-cleaver industry with wide distribution.
3. The Middle Palaeolithic is a flake-tool

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Asia.
(C) Palaeolithic cultures and ancient climatic fluctuations.
(D) The Upper Palaeolithic and the development of writing.

134. Which of these is the defining characteristic of the Levallois technique?
(A) The production of a single, large core tool from a nodule.
(B) The use of fire to harden the tips of wooden spears.
(C) The creation of tools by grinding and polishing.
(D) The careful preparation of a core for removing a single shaped flake.

135. Which cultural phase shows the most widespread geographical distribution within the Indian subcontinent?
(A) The Middle Palaeolithic culture
(B) The Sohan industry
(C) The Upper Palaeolithic culture (prior to Mesolithic expansion)
(D) The Acheulian industry

136. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Bone tools are rare in Lower and Middle Palaeolithic contexts but become more common in the Upper Palaeolithic.
Reason (R) : The technology to effectively shape and work bone into standardized forms like needles and harpoons was a key innovation of the Upper Palaeolithic.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

137. The presence of Acheulian sites in the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys of Karnataka demonstrates the spread of this culture into the:
(A) Sivalik foothills
(B) Thar Desert
(C) Gangetic plain
(D) Southern Deccan Plateau

138. The study of the Palaeolithic sequence in the Son valley is important as it is a tributary of the Ganga and provides a link to the prehistory of:
(A) North-Central India
(B) Peninsular India
(C) Western India
(D) The Sivalik region

139. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Tool Type)
P. Handaxe
Q. Scraper
R. Blade
S. Chopper
List II: (Primary Associated Culture)
1. Middle Palaeolithic
2. Upper Palaeolithic
3. Sohan (Lower Palaeolithic)
4. Acheulian (Lower Palaeolithic)
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2

140. What is the most significant aspect of the Palaeolithic evidence from the Kortlayar valley site of Attirampakkam?
(A) The presence of Sohan-type pebble tools.
(B) The very early age established for its Acheulian and earlier levels.
(C) The discovery of the first prehistoric art in South India.
(D) Its unique assemblage of bone tools.

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141. Consider the following statements about the distribution of Palaeolithic sites:
1. The Sohan industry is named after a river in the Potwar Plateau.
2. It is characterized by tools made on pebbles.
3. It represents a Lower Palaeolithic tradition.
4. It is found all over India, including Tamil Nadu.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

180. Which of the following is the best example of a prepared core technique?
(A) The Sohanian method of making a chopper from a pebble.
(B) The Acheulian method of bifacially flaking a handaxe.
(C) The Upper Palaeolithic method of producing blades.
(D) The Levallois technique.

181. Consider the following statements about the distribution of Palaeolithic sites:
1. Acheulian sites are found in the Narmada and Sabarmati valleys.
2. The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka have rich Acheulian sites.
3. The Krishna and Godavari valleys also have evidence of Acheulian culture.
4. The Kortlayar valley is home to the site of Attirampakkam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

182. A unifacial pebble tool with a broad, transverse cutting edge is best described as a:
(A) Handaxe
(B) Chopper
(C) Cleaver
(D) Burin

183. The introduction of bone implements in the Upper Palaeolithic allowed for the creation of new types of tools such as:
(A) Handaxes and cleavers
(B) Choppers and scrapers
(C) Querns and mullers
(D) Needles, harpoons, and points

184. The Palaeolithic record in the Potwar Plateau is primarily associated with which industry?
(A) Sohan
(B) Acheulian
(C) Middle Palaeolithic of Nevasa
(D) Upper Palaeolithic of the Belan Valley

185. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.

Statement I : The Son Valley is a tributary of the Narmada river system.
Statement II : The Son Valley, like the Belan, provides a long chrono-cultural sequence of the Palaeolithic.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

186. The main purpose of studying geo-chronology at sites like Didwana and the Sivaliks is to:
(A) Place the stone tool cultures in a secure chronological and environmental framework.
(B) Understand the meaning of the rock art.
(C) Reconstruct the ancient languages spoken by the people.
(D) Identify the sources of metal ores.

187. The defining tool types of the Acheulian industry are:
(A) Choppers and chopping tools
(B) Blades and burins
(C) Points and scrapers on flakes
(D) Handaxes and cleavers

188. Which of the following statements about the Middle Palaeolithic is correct?
(A) It is characterized by large, heavy core tools.
(B) The tool kit is dominated by various types of tools made on flakes.
(C) It is chronologically earlier than the Lower Palaeolithic.
(D) Bone tools were the most common artifacts of this period.

189. Which of the following archaeological periods is primarily defined by the use of stone tool technology?
(A) The Bronze Age
(B) The Iron Age
(C) The Palaeolithic period
(D) The Neolithic period

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250. The comprehensive Palaeolithic cultural sequence, from Lower to Upper, is well-preserved and studied in which two adjacent river valleys?
(A) Belan and Son
(B) Krishna and Godavari
(C) Sohan and Indus
(D) Narmada and Sabarmati

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The geo-chronological framework of India's Stone Age is established through a multidisciplinary approach, integrating geological stratigraphy with archaeological findings from key sites across the subcontinent. The Sivalik hills, particularly the Sohan Valley and the Potwar Plateau, offer a crucial sequence for understanding the early phases of the Palaeolithic. Similarly, the Belan and Son valleys in north-central India provide a long and continuous cultural sequence from the Lower Palaeolithic to the early historic periods, making them type-sites for the region. In the arid zones of western India, the geo-chronology is understood through sites like Didwana dune 16R in Rajasthan, where palaeoclimatic changes are correlated with shifts in lithic industries. Further south, the Kortlayar valley in Tamilnadu, especially the site of Attirampakkam, has yielded evidence for some of the earliest Acheulian assemblages in India, pushing back the timeline for hominin presence in the region. A site of continental significance is Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh, where volcanic ash from the Toba super-eruption is found interstratified with Palaeolithic tool assemblages. This unique context provides a definitive chronological marker, allowing for a precise correlation between environmental events and cultural developments around 74,000 years ago, impacting our understanding of hominin continuity and dispersal.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, which site is particularly significant for its long and continuous cultural sequence from the Lower Palaeolithic onwards?
(A) Didwana dune 16R
(B) The Belan and Son valleys
(C) The Sohan Valley and Potwar Plateau
(D) Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh

252. What is the primary significance of the Jwalapuram site in Andhra Pradesh for Palaeolithic studies?
(A) It has volcanic ash deposits that provide a precise chronological marker for cultural layers.
(B) It contains the oldest Acheulian tools in South India.
(C) It demonstrates a link between palaeoclimatic shifts and lithic industries in an arid zone.
(D) It offers the most complete sequence of the Sohan industry in the Sivalik hills.

253. The text suggests that the study of Didwana dune 16R is most relevant for understanding which aspect of the Stone Age?
(A) The impact of a super-eruption on hominin populations.
(B) The earliest evidence of the Acheulian industry in India.
(C) The relationship between environmental changes and cultural adaptations in arid regions.
(D) The development of blade and bone implement technology.

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254. Which site mentioned in the passage has contributed to pushing back the timeline for the Acheulian culture in the Indian subcontinent?
(A) The Son valley
(B) Jwalapuram
(C) Didwana dune 16R
(D) Attirampakkam

255. Based on the information provided, what can be inferred about the methods used to establish the geo-chronology of the Indian Stone Age?
(A) It relies exclusively on the study of lithic tool typology.
(B) It is primarily based on the analysis of volcanic ash layers.
(C) It integrates geological data with archaeological evidence from diverse geographical contexts.
(D) It depends solely on the cultural sequences found in the Sivalik hills.

200. The term 'Sohan' refers to:
(A) A Lower Palaeolithic pebble-tool industry from the Sivaliks.
(B) A type of Upper Palaeolithic bone tool.
(C) The most important site for prehistoric art in India.
(D) A technique for making Middle Palaeolithic flakes.

201. Consider the following statements regarding Middle Palaeolithic culture:
1. It is chronologically situated between the Lower and Upper Palaeolithic.
2. The tools are generally smaller and lighter than those of the Lower Palaeolithic.
3. The prepared core technique was a significant technological feature.
4. The culture has a widespread geographical distribution in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

202. The presence of handaxes and cleavers in the Narmada valley is evidence of which culture?
(A) Acheulian
(B) Sohanian
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Mesolithic

203. The primary significance of Jwalapuram lies in its potential to study:
(A) The development of early agriculture.
(B) The transition from the Acheulian to the Sohanian.
(C) The origins of prehistoric rock art.
(D) The impact of a major volcanic event on a Palaeolithic landscape and its population.

204. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Upper Palaeolithic toolkit represents greater efficiency in raw material use compared to earlier periods.
Statement II : The blade-core technology of the Upper Palaeolithic allows for the production of a large number of standardized blanks from a single core.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

205. The Acheulian industry takes its name from the site of Saint-Acheul, which is in:
(A) Africa
(B) India
(C) France
(D) Pakistan

206. Which of the following is a characteristic tool of the Upper Palaeolithic, designed for engraving?
(A) Handaxe
(B) Cleaver
(C) Chopper
(D) Burin

207. The Palaeolithic sites in the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys are located in which modern state?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Tamil Nadu

208. The main focus of lithic technology in the Middle Palaeolithic was on producing:
(A) Large bifaces
(B) Varied tools on flakes
(C) Pebble tools
(D) Polished axes

209. The subject matter of prehistoric art in the Indian context provides valuable information about the:
(A) Political structure of Palaeolithic societies.
(B) Written languages of the Palaeolithic period.
(C) Fauna, subsistence strategies, and belief systems of the time.
(D) Agricultural techniques used by hunter-gatherers.

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229. The Middle Palaeolithic tool assemblage is best described as being based on:
(A) Heavy-duty core tools
(B) Long, parallel-sided blades
(C) Light-duty flake tools
(D) Polished stone axes

230. The sites in the Kortlayar valley are significant for the study of:
(A) The Sohan industry
(B) The Lower Palaeolithic in South India
(C) The distribution of prehistoric art
(D) The geo-chronology of the Sivaliks

231. Consider the following statements about the distribution of Palaeolithic cultures:
1. Sohan industry is mainly associated with the Potwar Plateau and Sivalik hills.
2. Acheulian industry has a wide spread in river valleys like Narmada, Sabarmati, and Son.
3. Middle Palaeolithic culture is found widely across the subcontinent.
4. Upper Palaeolithic sites are found in regions like the Belan valley.
5. The Acheulian industry is found only in the Kortlayar valley.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5
(C) 1, 3, and 5 only
(D) All of the above

232. The term lithic in lithic technology refers to:
(A) Bone
(B) Stone
(C) Wood
(D) Clay

233. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Upper Palaeolithic marks a significant development in human cultural evolution.
Reason (R) : This period is characterized by technological innovations (blade and bone tools) and the emergence of symbolic expression (art).
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

234. The Narmada, Sabarmati, Hunsgi, and Krishna are all river valleys known for their rich deposits of which culture?
(A) Acheulian
(B) Sohanian
(C) Upper Palaeolithic
(D) Neolithic

235. The primary difference between a blade and a flake is:
(A) Blades are made of bone, while flakes are made of stone.
(B) Flakes are retouched, while blades are not.
(C) There is no difference; the terms are interchangeable.
(D) A blade is a flake at least twice as long as wide.

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236. The study of the Palaeolithic cultural developments in the Indian subcontinent is primarily based on the analysis of:
(A) Surviving architectural monuments.
(B) Stone tools and their geological context.
(C) Ancient literary texts and scriptures.
(D) The DNA of modern populations.

237. Which of the following is a key feature that distinguishes the Middle Palaeolithic from the Lower Palaeolithic?
(A) The invention of fire.
(B) The first appearance of bipedalism.
(C) Core to flake tool shift using prepared-core techniques.
(D) The beginning of cave painting.

238. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : Prehistoric art found in rock shelters provides a window into the daily life, rituals, and environment of ancient hunter-gatherers.
Statement II : The distribution of this art is confined to a single site in Central India.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

220. The Belan and Son valleys are located in which part of India?
(A) The extreme south
(B) The northeast hills
(C) The western coast
(D) North-central India

221. Consider the following statements about lithic technology progression:
1. The Lower Palaeolithic was dominated by core tools like handaxes and choppers.
2. The Middle Palaeolithic saw the rise of tools made on flakes produced by prepared core techniques.
3. The Upper Palaeolithic perfected blade production and introduced a variety of bone tools.
4. These technological shifts reflect changes in hominin cognition, strategy, and adaptation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

222. The term Acheulian is used to describe a specific industry within the:
(A) Middle Palaeolithic
(B) Upper Palaeolithic
(C) Mesolithic
(D) Lower Palaeolithic

223. What is the primary characteristic of Upper Palaeolithic tool technology?
(A) The production of blades and burins
(B) The use of pebble tools
(C) The dominance of handaxes
(D) The absence of retouch

224. Read the statements given below and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Sohan industry is considered a Lower Palaeolithic cultural tradition.
Statement II : The Sohan industry is primarily characterized by handaxes and cleavers.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

225. The geographical distribution of the Acheulian industry suggests it was:
(A) A highly localized and isolated phenomenon.
(B) A culture that only existed in cold, glacial environments.
(C) A successful, adaptable culture spread across the subcontinent.
(D) A short-lived culture that disappeared quickly.

226. What was a likely advantage of using bone as a raw material for tools in the Upper Palaeolithic?
(A) It could be shaped into sharp points and barbs for projectiles like harpoons.
(B) It was heavier and more durable than stone for all tasks.
(C) It was available everywhere in unlimited quantities.
(D) It required no skill to work with.

227. The evidence from sites like Didwana (dune 16R) is crucial for understanding:
(A) The origins of metallurgy in India.
(B) The maritime capabilities of Palaeolithic people.
(C) Relationship between Stone Age cultures and climatic change.
(D) The domestication of animals.

228. Consider the following tool types:
1. Burin
2. Flake Scraper
3. Handaxe

Which of the following is the correct order of these tools based on their general order of appearance in the archaeological record?
(A) 1, 2, 3
(B) 3, 2, 1
(C) 2, 3, 1
(D) 3, 1, 2

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210. Consider the following sites and their locations:
1. Sohan Valley - Potwar Plateau
2. Belan Valley - Uttar Pradesh/Madhya Pradesh
3. Didwana - Rajasthan
4. Attirampakkam - Tamil Nadu
5. Jwalapuram - Andhra Pradesh

Which of the above are correctly matched?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 3, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

211. The term antiquity when applied to the Sohan industry implies that it is:
(A) A recent and modern phenomenon.
(B) A unique art style.
(C) Of great age, belonging to the early part of the Palaeolithic.
(D) A type of ancient currency.

212. The spread of the Acheulian industry into the Krishna and Godavari valleys shows that Palaeolithic humans:
(A) Were restricted to the northern part of the subcontinent.
(B) Lived only in caves and rock shelters.
(C) Did not know how to make stone tools.
(D) Successfully colonized and adapted to the environments of the Deccan Plateau.

213. The most significant technological leap of the Middle Palaeolithic was the mastery of:
(A) Fire
(B) Agriculture
(C) The prepared core technique
(D) Polishing stones

214. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Upper Palaeolithic culture?
(A) Blade technology
(B) Predominance of chopper-chopping tools
(C) Use of bone implements
(D) Beginnings of art

215. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Sivalik hills region is critical for understanding the geo-chronology of the early Stone Age in the subcontinent.
Reason (R) : The region contains datable geological deposits, including river terraces, which have yielded Sohan industry tools in a stratified context.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

216. The sites associated with playas in Rajasthan are important because they provide evidence for:
(A) Human occupation during wetter climatic phases in an otherwise arid region.
(B) The earliest use of iron in India.
(C) The origins of the Sohan industry.
(D) Large urban settlements in the Palaeolithic.

217. The transition from Lower to Middle Palaeolithic is best characterized by a shift:
(A) From core-tool dominated industries to flake-tool dominated industries.
(B) From stone to bronze tools.
(C) From hunting-gathering to agriculture.
(D) From flake-tool industries to blade-tool industries.

218. The study of prehistoric art in the Indian context mainly involves analyzing:
(A) Paintings and engravings in rock shelters and caves.
(B) Carvings on temple walls.
(C) Illuminated manuscripts.
(D) Inscriptions on pillars.

219. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Palaeolithic Culture)
P. Sohan
Q. Acheulian
R. Middle Palaeolithic
S. Upper Palaeolithic
List II: (Example Site/Region)
1. Sites in Belan Valley with blades and bone points
2. Sites in Narmada Valley with handaxes and cleavers
3. Sites in Potwar Plateau with pebble tools
4. Sites with flake-scrapers all over India

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(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

239. The term Sohan Industry is derived from:
(A) A river in the Potwar Plateau region.
(B) The archaeologist who discovered it.
(C) The primary type of rock used.
(D) A key animal species hunted.

240. The Acheulian tradition is a cultural complex of the:
(A) Upper Palaeolithic
(B) Middle Palaeolithic
(C) Neolithic
(D) Lower Palaeolithic

241. Consider the following technologies:
1. Pebble tools (Choppers)
2. Bifacial Handaxes
3. Levallois technique
4. Blade-core technique

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the emergence of these technologies?
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 2, 1, 4, 3
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

242. The main characteristic of the Upper Palaeolithic is the proliferation of:
(A) Blades and Bone implements
(B) Handaxes and Cleavers
(C) Choppers and Chopping tools
(D) Microlithic tools

243. The evidence for Palaeolithic occupation in the arid zone of Rajasthan is best documented at:
(A) Jwalapuram
(B) Hunsgi
(C) Didwana
(D) Attirampakkam

244. The toolkits of the Middle Palaeolithic, consisting of various scrapers, points, and borers on flakes, are interpreted as being suitable for:
(A) Large-game hunting and heavy butchery only.
(B) Agricultural activities like harvesting.
(C) Building stone monuments.
(D) A wider range of processing and manufacturing tasks.

245. The Sohan industry and the Acheulian industry are two distinct cultural traditions of the:
(A) Mesolithic period
(B) Upper Palaeolithic period
(C) Lower Palaeolithic period
(D) Middle Palaeolithic period

246. The appearance of finely made bone needles in the Upper Palaeolithic is inferred as evidence for:
(A) The practice of surgery.
(B) The manufacture of tailored clothing.
(C) The beginning of writing.
(D) The creation of fishing nets.

247. The term geo-chronology refers to the establishment of a time scale for:
(A) The life of a single organism.
(B) The reigns of kings and dynasties.
(C) The development of different languages.
(D) Geological events applied to archaeological contexts.

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248. The Levallois technique is a specific method for:
(A) Producing a flake of a predetermined size and shape.
(B) Producing a core tool like a handaxe.
(C) Polishing a stone axe.
(D) Engraving on a bone.

249. Which of the following correctly pairs a Palaeolithic culture with its defining technology?
(A) Sohan - Blade and Burin
(B) Acheulian - Prepared Core Technique
(C) Upper Palaeolithic - Blade and Bone Implements
(D) Middle Palaeolithic - Handaxe and Cleaver

with sites found in a variety of ecological niches. Major river valleys were particularly favored, as evidenced by the rich distribution of sites along the Narmada and Sabarmati valleys in western and central India. The Belan and Son valleys in the north-central region also contain a wealth of Acheulian material, often in stratified contexts that allow for the study of its development over time. The presence of this industry in these major riverine systems suggests a successful adaptation by hominin groups to environments that provided consistent access to water, raw materials for tool-making, and diverse faunal resources, facilitating its remarkable geographical expansion.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What is the principal technological characteristic that distinguishes the Acheulian industry from the Sohanian?
(A) The use of pebble-based chopper tools.
(B) The reliance on bone and antler for implements.
(C) The application of the prepared core technique.
(D) The systematic manufacture of large bifacial tools.

262. The passage suggests that the production of Acheulian tools like hand-axes implies a significant development in which area?
(A) The use of fire for hardening tools.
(B) The cognitive abilities related to planning and design.
(C) The construction of permanent shelters.
(D) The practice of ritual and symbolic behaviour.

263. According to the text, which geographical features were particularly associated with the spread of the Acheulian industry?
(A) High-altitude mountain ranges and caves.
(B) Arid desert dunes and playas.
(C) Major river valleys and their terrace systems.
(D) Coastal estuaries and mangrove forests.

264. The Belan and Son valley sites are highlighted as important for Acheulian studies primarily because they offer:
(A) The earliest evidence of Acheulian culture in India.
(B) The only source of quartzite raw material.
(C) Unique preservation of organic remains.
(D) Stratified contexts to study the culture's development.

265. What inference can be drawn about the lifestyle of Acheulian hominins from their site distribution?
(A) They were highly adapted to riverine environments.
(B) They were a maritime people who relied on marine resources.
(C) They preferred to live in isolated, arid regions.
(D) They primarily inhabited cold, glacial landscapes.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The geographical reach of the Acheulian industry extended far beyond the major river systems of north-central India, demonstrating a remarkable adaptability to diverse environmental settings. In peninsular India, the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka are of paramount importance. These valleys have yielded evidence of dense concentrations of Acheulian sites, suggesting that they were hubs of hominin activity. The availability of limestone and other raw materials, coupled with a landscape dotted with seasonal water sources, likely made this region particularly attractive. Further south, the Krishna and Godavari valleys also host significant Acheulian occupations, confirming the industry's firm establishment across the Deccan Plateau. The Kortlayar valley in Tamilnadu, with sites like Attirampakkam, provides evidence for a very early and long-lasting Acheulian presence in the deep south. Beyond the well-watered valleys, Acheulian tool-makers also exploited arid environments. Evidence for this comes from sites associated with the playas, or ancient salt lakes, of Rajasthan. The discovery of Acheulian artefacts in these contexts indicates that hominin groups were capable of surviving in and navigating landscapes with fluctuating and scarce water resources, challenging the notion that they were confined solely to perennial riverine settings. This wide distribution underscores the technological

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Lower Palaeolithic culture in the Indian subcontinent is broadly divided into two major lithic traditions: the Sohanian and the Acheulian. The Sohan industry, named after the Sohan River Valley in the Potwar Plateau region of the Sivalik hills, is characterized by a pebble-tool or chopper-chopping tool complex. Its antiquity has been a subject of considerable debate, but it represents one of the earliest cultural expressions in the northern part of the subcontinent. The technology involved the selection of suitable quartzite pebbles and cobbles, from which large flakes were struck off to create a sharp, often sinuous, cutting edge. The core was then utilized as the primary tool, which could be a unifacial chopper (worked on one side) or a bifacial chopping tool (worked on both sides). While the classic Sohanian assemblage is dominated by these core tools, it also includes a component of flake tools. The geo-stratigraphic context of these tools within the boulder conglomerate beds of the Sivaliks has been crucial for establishing their chronological position within the Pleistocene. The distinct technological focus on core-based chopper tools sets the Sohan industry apart from the biface-dominated Acheulian tradition, although the precise relationship and potential overlap between these two major Lower Palaeolithic facies remain a key area of research.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What is the defining characteristic of the Sohan industry's lithic technology?
(A) The exclusive use of blade and bone implements.
(B) The predominance of a pebble-tool complex involving choppers and chopping tools.
(C) The systematic production of Levallois flakes and points.
(D) The creation of finely finished bifacial hand-axes and cleavers.

257. According to the passage, the primary tool in the Sohan industry was typically made from what?
(A) The flake struck from a pebble.
(B) The prepared core after flake removal.
(C) The bone of a large mammal.
(D) The remaining core of a pebble or cobble.

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258. The antiquity and chronological position of the Sohan industry are primarily established through its association with which geological feature?
(A) The boulder conglomerate beds in the Sivaliks.
(B) The volcanic ash layers of Jwalapuram.
(C) The playa deposits of Rajasthan.
(D) The river terrace systems of the Narmada valley.

259. The passage distinguishes between a chopper and a chopping tool in the Sohanian context based on what criterion?
(A) The size of the raw material used.
(B) The geographical location where the tool was found.
(C) The tool being worked on one face versus two faces.
(D) The type of rock used for its manufacture.

260. What does the passage identify as a key area of ongoing research concerning the Lower Palaeolithic in India?
(A) The precise relationship between the Sohanian and Acheulian traditions.
(B) The exact date of the Toba super-eruption.
(C) The specific function of Sohanian flake tools.
(D) The migratory routes of hominins into the Potwar Plateau.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Acheulian industry represents the most widespread and enduring cultural tradition of the Lower Palaeolithic in India. In contrast to the Sohanian, its hallmark is the systematic production of large bifacial tools, primarily hand-axes and cleavers. This industry demonstrates a significant cognitive leap, involving forethought and standardized manufacturing processes to achieve a preconceived tool form. The Acheulian makers selected large blocks or flakes of suitable raw material, like quartzite, and shaped them through bifacial flaking to produce symmetrical and efficient cutting, chopping, and digging implements. The spread of the Acheulian industry across the Indian subcontinent was extensive,

190. Which of these is a key site cluster for the Acheulian culture in the southern Deccan plateau?
(A) The Potwar plateau
(B) The Belan valley
(C) Didwana
(D) The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys

191. Consider the following items:
1. Handaxe
2. Cleaver
3. Chopper
4. Scraper
5. Blade

Which of these are characteristic of the Lower Palaeolithic cultures (Sohan and Acheulian)?
(A) 1, 2, and 3
(B) 3, 4, and 5
(C) 1, 4, and 5
(D) All of the above

192. The antiquity and significance of prehistoric art are studied to understand:
(A) Only the artistic skills of early humans.
(B) The symbolic and cognitive world of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic peoples.
(C) The exact date of the origin of language.
(D) The trade routes of the Harappan civilization.

193. The Levallois technique involves preparing a core in such a way that:
(A) Many small, random flakes can be removed.
(B) The shape and size of the flake to be removed is predetermined.
(C) The core itself becomes the final tool.
(D) It can be ground and polished easily.

194. Which of the following Palaeolithic cultures is known for its blade and bone implements?
(A) Upper Palaeolithic
(B) Sohanian
(C) Acheulian
(D) Middle Palaeolithic

195. The site of Jwalapuram is in which modern Indian state?
(A) Tamil Nadu
(B) Karnataka
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Rajasthan

196. Read the Assertion (A) and Reason (R) given below and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Belan and Son valleys are of immense importance in Indian prehistory.
Reason (R) : They provide a clear, stratified sequence of cultures from the Lower Palaeolithic to later periods, set within a datable geo-chronological framework.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

197. Which of the following regions is specifically associated with Palaeolithic sites found in the context of ancient playas?
(A) The Kortlayar Valley
(B) The Son Valley
(C) Rajasthan
(D) The Sivalik Hills

198. The transition from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Upper Palaeolithic is marked by:
(A) The first appearance of stone tools.
(B) A shift from flake tools to blade tools.
(C) The end of hunting and gathering.
(D) A shift from core tools to flake tools.

199. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below.
List I: (Site/Region)
P. Potwar Plateau
Q. Didwana
R. Hunsgi Valley
S. Attirampakkam
List II: (Associated Culture/Feature)
1. Arid zone palaeolithic
2. Acheulian site cluster in Karnataka
3. Sohan Industry
4. Lower Palaeolithic site in Tamil Nadu
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

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efficiency and behavioural flexibility of Acheulian populations in the Indian subcontinent.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys are significant because they indicate:
(A) The southernmost limit of Acheulian expansion.
(B) The presence of dense concentrations of Acheulian activity.
(C) The exclusive use of quartzite for tool-making.
(D) The first use of blade and burin technology.

267. According to the passage, the presence of Acheulian sites in the Krishna and Godavari valleys confirms what?
(A) The earliest date for hominin presence in India.
(B) The industry's expansion across the Deccan Plateau.
(C) The coexistence of Acheulian and Sohanian traditions.
(D) The development of art during the Lower Palaeolithic.

268. What does the discovery of Acheulian sites associated with the playas of Rajasthan reveal about hominin capabilities?
(A) Their capacity to survive in landscapes with variable water availability.
(B) Their dependence on marine environments for survival.
(C) Their inability to adapt to environments outside of river valleys.
(D) Their preference for high-altitude, cold climates.

269. The passage mentions all of the following as regions with Acheulian sites EXCEPT:
(A) The Kortlayar valley.
(B) The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys.
(C) The Potwar Plateau.
(D) The environs of Rajasthani playas.

270. What overarching conclusion does the passage draw from the wide distribution of Acheulian sites?
(A) The Acheulian industry was technologically static and unchanging.
(B) Acheulian hominins were behaviorally rigid and specialized.
(C) Acheulian populations were in constant conflict with Sohanian groups.
(D) The industry represented a technologically efficient and behaviorally flexible adaptation.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Middle Palaeolithic culture in the Indian subcontinent marks a significant technological and typological shift from the preceding Lower Palaeolithic. This cultural phase is characterized by a move away from the large, heavy-duty core tools like hand-axes and cleavers, and towards an industry based predominantly on flakes. The tool kit of the Middle Palaeolithic is smaller, lighter, and more diversified, comprising tool types such as scrapers, points, and borers, all manufactured on flakes struck from prepared cores. This transition reflects a more efficient use of raw material and a refinement in knapping techniques. The geographical spread of the Middle Palaeolithic is extensive, with sites found throughout the subcontinent, often occupying the same regions as the earlier Acheulian cultures but also expanding into new territories. Evidence for this culture is found in stratified contexts in the Son and Narmada valleys, in the arid zones of Rajasthan, in the plateau regions of the Deccan, and as far south as Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh. The discovery of Middle Palaeolithic assemblages in association with the volcanic ash layer at Jwalapuram provides a crucial chronological anchor, placing this cultural phase firmly within the Late Pleistocene and highlighting its resilience through major environmental events like the Toba super-eruption.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is the primary characteristic that defines the Middle Palaeolithic tool industry?
(A) A focus on large, bifacial hand-axes and cleavers.
(B) The widespread use of ground and polished stone tools.
(C) A predominance of tools made on flakes struck from cores.

held enduring sacred or social significance over long periods. Thus, prehistoric art is a dynamic cultural archive, reflecting changing beliefs, technologies, and social structures.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. According to the passage, the global importance of which site is highlighted for its prehistoric art?
(A) Jwalapuram.
(B) Attirampakkam.
(C) Didwana.
(D) Bhimbetka.

297. Thematic analysis of Indian rock art often reveals a strong focus on what subject?
(A) The animal world and human-animal interactions.
(B) The construction of shelters and settlements.
(C) The process of making stone tools.
(D) Agricultural activities and crop cycles.

298. What does the depiction of coordinated group hunts in rock paintings suggest about prehistoric society?
(A) The prevalence of violent conflict between groups.
(B) The existence of social cooperation and planning.
(C) A complete lack of social structure.
(D) A society based on individual, solitary subsistence.

299. The phenomenon of superposition in rock art, where new paintings are made over old ones, suggests that:
(A) Artists were correcting mistakes in earlier paintings.
(B) Certain locations held continuous significance over time.
(C) There was a severe shortage of suitable rock surfaces.
(D) Later artists sought to erase the art of previous groups.

300. The passage describes prehistoric art as a dynamic cultural archive because it:
(A) Reflects changes in beliefs and societies over time.
(B) Is preserved in a perfect, unchanging state.
(C) Can be physically moved from one location to another.
(D) Was created by a single, continuous cultural group.

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abstract thought.
(C) The development of artistic and symbolic expression.
(D) The first use of fire for heat treatment of stone.

279. From an economic perspective, what is a key advantage of the Levallois technique?
(A) It requires very little skill to execute successfully.
(B) It can be performed using any type of raw material.
(C) It allows for the production of multiple standardized flakes from one core.
(D) It produces tools that do not require any secondary modification.

280. How does the Levallois technique differ fundamentally from the methods used to create Lower Palaeolithic core tools?
(A) It involves grinding and polishing rather than flaking.
(B) It relies on bone hammers instead of stone hammers.
(C) It is only used for making microlithic tools.
(D) It involves shaping the core to produce a specific flake, rather than shaping the core into the tool itself.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Upper Palaeolithic culture in India represents the final phase of the Old Stone Age and is distinguished by a significant innovation in lithic technology: the widespread production of blades. This period saw a marked shift towards creating long, slender flakes with parallel sides, known as blades, which were struck from carefully prepared prismatic cores. This blade-and-burin technology was highly efficient, maximizing the amount of cutting edge produced from a given volume of fine-grained raw material like chert, jasper, or chalcedony. The blades themselves were not always the final tool; they often served as blanks for producing a variety of other specialised implements, including backed blades, points, and notably, burins. Burins, or gravers, are chisel-like tools that were essential for working hard organic materials such as bone, antler, and ivory. The appearance of a sophisticated bone tool industry, including items like points, harpoons, and needles, is a key characteristic of the Upper Palaeolithic. This technological package enabled new adaptive strategies and the exploitation of a wider range of resources. The geographic distribution of Upper Palaeolithic sites is widespread, with major concentrations found in the Son and Belan valleys, the Chota Nagpur plateau, across the Deccan Plateau, and in parts of the Eastern Ghats, including sites like Jwalapuram.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. What is the defining technological feature of the Upper Palaeolithic culture?
(A) The widespread production and use of blades.
(B) The predominance of chopper-chopping tools.
(C) The focus on large bifacial hand-axes.
(D) The invention of pottery and agriculture.

282. According to the passage, the use of blade technology was efficient because it:
(A) Required less cognitive effort than previous techniques.
(B) Maximized the cutting edge obtainable from a piece of raw material.
(C) Could be done with any type of coarse-grained rock.
(D) Eliminated the need for preparing a core before striking.

283. A 'burin', a characteristic tool of the Upper Palaeolithic, is described as being essential for what task?
(A) Grinding grains and seeds.
(B) Working hard organic materials like bone and ivory.
(C) Cutting down large trees.
(D) Butchering large animal carcasses.

284. Besides a new lithic technology, what other significant industrial development characterizes the Upper Palaeolithic?
(A) The emergence of a sophisticated bone tool industry.
(B) The construction of megalithic monuments.
(C) The first use of metal for making ornaments.
(D) The development of large-scale irrigation

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The site of Didwana in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan is crucial for understanding Palaeolithic adaptations to arid environments. Within this region, the sand dune designated as 16R has provided a stratified sequence of stone tools and archaeological remains. This discovery proves that human populations inhabited the area during fluctuating climatic phases. The site allows researchers to correlate stone tool industries with ancient environmental changes and geological shifts over long periods.

9. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

Different phases of the Stone Age are defined by specific technological traditions and tool types. The Lower Palaeolithic is primarily associated with the handaxe-cleaver complex, while the Middle Palaeolithic utilized the prepared core or Levallois technique. The Upper Palaeolithic is marked by the systematic production of blades and bone implements. Additionally, the Sohan industry is a specific Lower Palaeolithic tradition that relied heavily on the manufacture of pebble-based chopper and chopping tools.

10. (A) It shows widespread distribution across varied subcontinent eco-zones.

The Middle Palaeolithic culture exhibits a remarkably widespread distribution across the Indian subcontinent. Unlike some earlier traditions that might be more localized, evidence of this flake-based industry is found in diverse ecological zones, ranging from river valleys to plateau regions and arid deserts. This extensive spread suggests that human populations during this period possessed high levels of mobility and the technological flexibility required to adapt to various environmental conditions and resource availability.

11. (A) 1 and 2 only

The Upper Palaeolithic period in India is technologically distinguished by the appearance of advanced blade and burin industries. During this phase, there is also an increased use of organic materials, leading to the manufacture of various bone implements like harpoons and needles. However, this culture is not restricted to a single valley and is chronologically positioned after the Middle Palaeolithic. Therefore, only the statements regarding tool technology and the use of bone are accurate.

12. (B) The techniques and methods used to produce stone tools.

In the field of prehistoric archaeology, the term lithic technology specifically refers to the various methods and processes used by early humans to manufacture stone tools. This includes the selection of raw materials, the techniques of flaking or grinding, and the systematic reduction of stone cores to produce desired implements. Analyzing these technologies provides insights into the cognitive abilities, manual dexterity, and adaptive strategies of Palaeolithic populations across different chronological and geographical contexts.

13. (C) Karnataka

The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys are located in the Gulbarga district of modern-day Karnataka. These valleys are internationally recognized for their dense concentration of Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian sites. Archaeological research in this region has revealed insights into seasonal settlement patterns and the systematic use of locally available limestone for tool production. The abundance of perennial springs in these valleys made them attractive locales for prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups over many thousands of years.

14. (A) 4, 3, 2, 1

The evolution of stone tool technology in India followed a distinct chronological progression. It began with the simple pebble tool manufacturing characteristic of the Sohan tradition. This was followed by the Acheulian industry, which introduced bifacial flaking to create handaxes and cleavers. Subsequently, the Middle Palaeolithic saw the emergence of the Levallois or prepared core technique. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic period was defined by the sophisticated systematic production of parallel-sided blades and burin tools.

15. (A) It offers insights into social, economic, and aesthetic life.

Prehistoric art, primarily found as rock paintings and engravings, serves as a vital non-utilitarian record of early human existence. In India,

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Engravings on ostrich eggshell fragments from this period are considered among the earliest forms of symbolic expression. However, the vast majority of rock art sites, such as those in the famous Bhimbetka complex, feature paintings that date from the Mesolithic to the historic periods. The significance of this art is multifaceted. It provides invaluable, albeit interpretative, insights into subsistence activities, with numerous depictions of hunting scenes involving various animals and weapon technologies. The art also portrays aspects of social life, including group dances, rituals, and family groups, offering a glimpse into community structures. Furthermore, the presence of abstract and geometric symbols suggests a complex cognitive framework and the capacity for symbolic thought beyond mere representation. The distribution of prehistoric art is widespread across India, with major concentrations found in the sandstone shelters of central India, such as the Vindhya and Satpura ranges, as well as in regions of the Deccan Plateau and southern India.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. What is considered to be among the earliest evidence for symbolic expression in the Indian Upper Palaeolithic?
(A) Elaborate cave paintings of large animals.
(B) The creation of clay figurines of mother goddesses.
(C) Engravings on ostrich eggshell fragments.
(D) The construction of megalithic burial sites.

292. The passage indicates that the majority of Indian rock art paintings, such as those at Bhimbetka, date to which period?
(A) The Mesolithic and subsequent periods.
(B) Exclusively the Lower Palaeolithic.
(C) The Upper Palaeolithic.
(D) The Neolithic agricultural phase only.

293. According to the text, what is a primary significance of prehistoric rock art?
(A) It provides precise chronological dates for lithic industries.
(B) It documents the exact process of Palaeolithic tool manufacture.
(C) It proves the existence of a written language in prehistoric times.
(D) It offers insights into the subsistence and social activities of past peoples.

294. The presence of abstract and geometric designs in rock art is interpreted as evidence for:
(A) The development of mathematical principles.
(B) The capacity for complex symbolic thought.
(C) A lack of artistic skill in realistic portrayal.
(D) Contact with external, more advanced cultures.

295. In which geographical region is a major concentration of Indian prehistoric art sites located?
(A) The alluvial plains of the Indus and Ganga rivers.
(B) The coastal areas of Kerala and Goa.
(C) The sandstone shelters of central India.
(D) The Thar desert of Rajasthan.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The distribution and significance of prehistoric art in the Indian subcontinent are key to understanding the non-material culture of Stone Age societies. While its roots may extend into the Upper Palaeolithic, the tradition flourished in later periods, with thousands of painted rock shelters distributed across the country. Major concentrations are found in the sandstone formations of central India, particularly in the Vindhyan and Satpura hill ranges, with Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh being a site of global importance. Other significant clusters are found in the Deccan Plateau, including parts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and in the Kaimur hills. The significance of this art lies not just in its aesthetic value but in its function as a record of prehistoric life and cognition. Thematic analysis reveals a preoccupation with the animal world and the human-animal relationship, central to a hunting-gathering economy. Scenes depicting coordinated group hunts provide evidence for social cooperation and planning. The portrayal of figures in dance-like formations or with elaborate headgear points towards ritualistic or shamanistic practices. The superposition of paintings, where newer images are painted over older ones, not only helps in establishing a relative chronology but also suggests that certain locations

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is famous for yielding a comprehensive and stratified sequence of Stone Age cultures, ranging from the Lower Palaeolithic to later periods.

23. (D) Middle Palaeolithic

The Middle Palaeolithic serves as a vital technological bridge between the earlier Lower Palaeolithic and the subsequent Upper Palaeolithic. This phase is primarily characterized by the transition from heavy core tools, like handaxes, to lighter and more specialized flake-based implements. By utilizing techniques such as the Levallois method, populations during this period created a diverse array of scrapers and points. This shift reflects a move toward greater tool efficiency and specialization in response to changing environmental needs.

24. (A) The Playas of Rajasthan

In the arid region of Rajasthan, Acheulian sites are frequently found in association with ancient saline lake beds known as playas. These playas represent paleo-environmental contexts where water was available during specific climatic phases in the past. The presence of stone tools near these lake beds indicates that Palaeolithic populations utilized these water sources and surrounding resources during wetter intervals. This association is a key feature of the archaeological record in the desert landscapes of western India.

25. (C) Core tool industries to flake tool industries.

The transition from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic is primarily defined by a significant change in stone tool technology. The earlier Lower Palaeolithic was dominated by large core tools, such as handaxes and cleavers, produced by flaking a whole stone nodule. In contrast, the Middle Palaeolithic is characterized by an emphasis on flake tool industries. Tools were increasingly manufactured from the smaller flakes struck off from a core, leading to a more specialized and diverse toolkit.

26. (A) Systematic production of long, parallel-sided blades.

The Upper Palaeolithic period is distinguished from the preceding Middle Palaeolithic by several technological innovations. The most prominent feature is the systematic production of blades, which are specialized stone flakes that are long, thin, and have parallel sides. These blades were produced from prismatic cores and could be further modified into various tools like burins. This advancement allowed for more efficient use of raw materials and the creation of specialized equipment for engraving and carving organic materials.

27. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

The Son valley is an archaeologically rich region that, like the Belan valley, has yielded a significant sequence of Palaeolithic industries within its stratified deposits. However, the idea that the Acheulian industry completely replaced the Sohan industry without any overlap is incorrect. Archaeological evidence often suggests that different technological traditions could coexist in different regions or show periods of interaction. Cultural transitions in prehistory are rarely sudden and often involve complex patterns of overlap and regional persistence.

28. (B) Terraces, sediments, and palaeoclimatic data.

Establishing the geo-chronology of the Indian Stone Age relies heavily on the study of geological features and environmental records. Archaeologists analyze river terraces, stratified sedimentary layers, and palaeoclimatic data to place stone tool industries within a temporal framework. These natural formations provide the context for dating archaeological finds and understanding the environmental conditions under which early humans lived. Unlike historical periods, prehistoric timelines are reconstructed through the intersection of geology, soil science, and the study of ancient climates.

29. (A) 1, 2, and 3

The Middle Palaeolithic toolkit is characterized by a variety of specialized flake-based tools. Typical examples found in assemblages from this period include scrapers used for hide processing, points for projectiles, and borers for piercing materials. These light-duty implements reflect a shift away from the heavy-duty bifacial tools like cleavers, which are primarily associated with the earlier Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tradition. Therefore, only scrapers, points, and borers are

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ANSWERS

1. (B) The Sivalik hills

   The Sohan industry represents a significant Lower Palaeolithic tradition characterized by pebble tools found in the northwestern subcontinent. This cultural complex is most famously linked with the Potwar Plateau region and the Sivalik hills. These geographical formations provided the necessary river pebbles used as raw material for tool production. The stratified deposits within these hills allow researchers to establish a clear geo-chronological framework for early human occupation.

2. (A) The use of pebble-based choppers and chopping tools.

   The Sohan industry is a distinct cultural phase of the Lower Palaeolithic period defined by its unique reliance on pebble tools. Unlike the Acheulian tradition, which focuses on bifacial implements like handaxes, the Sohan industry involves the manufacture of unifacial choppers and bifacial chopping tools from river pebbles. This technological focus highlights regional variations in tool-making traditions and adaptations to the specific raw materials available in riverine environments.

3. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

   The Belan and Son valleys are renowned in Indian archaeology for preserving an exceptionally clear and continuous sequence of Stone Age cultures within their stratified river deposits. Conversely, the Acheulian industry is fundamentally defined by the presence of bifacial handaxes and cleavers. Suggesting that this industry is characterized by the absence of handaxes is factually wrong, as these tools are its primary technological markers across the Indian subcontinent.

4. (D) Kortlayar valley

   Attirampakkam is one of the most significant Palaeolithic sites in India, providing evidence for very early human presence in the subcontinent. It is located within the Kortlayar river valley in the state of Tamil Nadu. The site has yielded an extensive assemblage of Acheulian tools, and recent dating efforts have pushed the antiquity of these stone tool industries back significantly, making it a pivotal location for global prehistory.

5. (C) Blade

   The Lower Palaeolithic culture is distinguished by heavy-duty stone tools produced through various flaking techniques. Common types include handaxes, cleavers, and choppers, which were essential for tasks like butchery and woodworking. In contrast, blades are long, slender flakes that are at least twice as long as they are wide. These specialized tools are characteristic of the later Upper Palaeolithic period and do not belong to the Lower Palaeolithic toolkit.

6. (B) The Levallois technique

   The Levallois technique is a sophisticated method of stone tool manufacture that appeared during the Middle Palaeolithic period. It is often referred to as the prepared core technique because the stoneworker carefully shapes the core before striking it. This preparation allows for the removal of a flake with a predetermined size and shape. This innovation represents a major cognitive leap, as it requires advanced planning and control over the final product.

7. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

   The Narmada and Sabarmati river valleys are exceptionally rich in Acheulian sites due to their favorable ecological conditions. These regions provided an abundant supply of high-quality quartzite, which was the primary raw material used by Palaeolithic people to manufacture bifacial tools. Additionally, the perennial water sources and diverse flora and fauna in these valleys supported long-term human occupation, making them ideal habitats for early hunter-gatherer populations across the subcontinent.

8. (A) Didwana

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systems.

285. The passage indicates that Upper Palaeolithic toolmakers preferred which type of raw material?
(A) Coarse-grained quartzite and sandstone.
(B) Large, unmodified river cobbles.
(C) Fine-grained materials like chert and jasper.
(D) Soft soapstone and limestone.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Elaborating on the Upper Palaeolithic tool kit, the lithic technologies centered on the production of blades from prismatic or pyramidal cores. This systematic process allowed for the creation of numerous standardized blanks that could be readily modified into a diverse range of implements. Backed blades, which have one edge deliberately blunted, were common and likely used as knives or as parts of composite tools. Points made on blades or flakes suggest advancements in hunting technology, possibly serving as tips for projectiles like spears or darts. The burin, a cornerstone of the Upper Palaeolithic toolkit, was a versatile engraving tool used to fashion other implements. Its proliferation is directly linked to the burgeoning bone tool industry. For the first time in the Indian prehistoric sequence, bone was systematically shaped into functional and potentially symbolic objects. This includes well-made bone points and harpoons, indicative of specialized hunting or fishing strategies, and eyed needles, which imply the sewing of hides for clothing or shelters. The geographic distribution of these industries is extensive. Major sites yielding Upper Palaeolithic assemblages, including both blade and bone implements, are found across the subcontinent, from the Belan valley in the north to the Kurnool caves in Andhra Pradesh, where a significant collection of bone tools has been documented.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. What was the likely function of 'backed blades' in the Upper Palaeolithic?
(A) To serve as heavy-duty chopping implements.
(B) To act as cores for producing smaller flakes.
(C) To function primarily as ritualistic objects.
(D) To be used as knives or parts of composite tools.

287. The discovery of eyed needles made from bone during the Upper Palaeolithic strongly implies which activity?
(A) The practice of ritual tattooing.
(B) The weaving of plant-fibre textiles.
(C) The sewing of animal hides.
(D) The creation of fishing nets.

288. The passage establishes a direct technological link between the proliferation of burins and the development of what?
(A) The Acheulian hand-axe industry.
(B) The bone tool industry.
(C) The Levallois prepared core technique.
(D) The Sohanian chopper-chopping complex.

289. According to the text, the Kurnool caves in Andhra Pradesh are particularly noted for what kind of Upper Palaeolithic evidence?
(A) The earliest dates for blade technology in India.
(B) A significant assemblage of prehistoric art.
(C) A continuous sequence from Sohanian to Upper Palaeolithic.
(D) An extensive collection of bone tools.

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290. What do blade points and bone harpoons from the Upper Palaeolithic suggest about subsistence strategies?
(A) The emergence of specialized hunting and fishing technologies.
(B) A complete reliance on gathering wild plants.
(C) The development of early agricultural practices.
(D) The use of rudimentary, unspecialized hunting methods.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Prehistoric art in the Indian context, primarily in the form of rock paintings, represents a vital source of information about the cognitive and social worlds of past populations. The antiquity of this artistic tradition is a subject of ongoing research, with some evidence suggesting its origins may lie in the Upper Palaeolithic period.

these artistic expressions provide profound insights into the social structures, economic activities like hunting, and aesthetic sensibilities of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic communities. They go beyond mere decoration, reflecting the cognitive development, symbolic behavior, and worldview of prehistoric people, allowing modern researchers to understand aspects of ancient life that stone tools cannot reveal.

16. (B) Attirampakkam - Narmada valley

Attirampakkam is a renowned Palaeolithic site located in the Kortlayar river valley of Tamil Nadu, not the Narmada valley. The Narmada valley is indeed rich in Acheulian sites, but Attirampakkam is a distinct and crucial location in South India known for its ancient tool assemblages. Other pairs, such as the Sohan Valley in the Sivalik hills, Didwana in the Rajasthan desert, and Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh, correctly reflect the known geographical distribution of sites.

17. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Levallois technique represents a major evolutionary milestone in human cognition and stone tool production. It involves a high degree of foresight because the toolmaker must carefully shape the core to pre-determine the exact size and shape of the flake before it is detached. This indicates advanced mental planning and a clear conceptualization of the final product. By controlling the result through core preparation, early humans achieved greater efficiency and standardization in their toolkit.

18. (A) Volcanic ash layers linked to the Toba super-eruption.

Jwalapuram, located in the Jurreru River valley of Andhra Pradesh, is scientifically significant due to its association with the Toba volcanic super-eruption. The site contains thick layers of volcanic ash that settled across the region approximately seventy-four thousand years ago. Archaeological excavations have recovered stone tools from both below and above these ash layers. This provides a unique opportunity to study the continuity and survival of Palaeolithic populations during a period of massive environmental catastrophe.

19. (A) 1, 2, 3, and 4

The Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian industry is defined by the production of bifacially worked tools, most notably handaxes and cleavers. These tools are widely distributed across the major river valleys of India, including the Narmada and Godavari. Local materials like quartzite were commonly utilized due to their durability and flaking properties. However, the Acheulian industry is chronologically much earlier than the Upper Palaeolithic phase. Therefore, only the first four statements regarding its characteristics and distribution are correct.

20. (D) Flakes

The Middle Palaeolithic period in the Indian subcontinent is technologically characterized by a shift from large core tools to smaller implements. The primary toolkit of this phase is based on flakes, which are the pieces struck off from a larger stone core. Using specialized methods like the Levallois technique, early humans produced diverse flake tools such as scrapers, points, and borers. This focus on flakes allowed for a more economical and versatile use of lithic resources.

21. (C) Earliest art is linked with the Upper Palaeolithic and later.

The antiquity of prehistoric art in the Indian subcontinent is generally traced back to the Upper Palaeolithic period and becomes more widespread during the Mesolithic phase. While some controversial finds exist, the most definitive evidence of symbolic behavior, including rock paintings and ostrich eggshell beads, emerges during these later stages of the Stone Age. This artistic development reflects a significant advancement in human cognition, symbolic communication, and the complex social lives of ancient hunter-gatherer communities.

22. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

Prehistoric sites in India are strategically linked to specific geographical regions. The Potwar Plateau is the primary location for the pebble-based Sohan industry. Attirampakkam is a significant site situated within the Kortlayar Valley of Tamil Nadu. The 16R sand dune provides crucial Palaeolithic evidence within the Didwana region of Rajasthan. Furthermore, the Belan Valley

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(D) The introduction of microlithic blade and lunate forms.

272. Which of the following tool types is most representative of the Middle Palaeolithic culture?
(A) Chopper-chopping tools.
(B) Scrapers, points, and borers.
(C) Hand-axes and cleavers.
(D) Blade and bone implements.

273. The passage suggests that the transition to the Middle Palaeolithic reflects what kind of change?
(A) A decline in cognitive abilities and planning.
(B) A complete abandonment of previously occupied territories.
(C) A shift from hunting to an exclusively plant-based diet.
(D) A more efficient use of raw materials and refined knapping methods.

274. The geographical distribution of the Middle Palaeolithic culture is best described as:
(A) Widespread, covering most of the Indian subcontinent.
(B) Restricted to the Sivalik hills of the north.
(C) Found exclusively in the arid zones of Rajasthan.
(D) Confined to the southern tip of the peninsula.

275. The site of Jwalapuram is significant for the Middle Palaeolithic because it:
(A) Contains the only evidence of Middle Palaeolithic art.
(B) Proves the culture originated in southern India.
(C) Provides a precise chronological marker for the culture.
(D) Features the largest assemblage of scraper tools ever found.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

A defining technological innovation of the Middle Palaeolithic period is the mastery of prepared core techniques, most notably the Levallois technique. This method represents a sophisticated approach to lithic reduction, requiring significant forethought and a clear conceptualization of the final product before the knapping process even begins. The Levallois technique involves the careful preparation of a core, shaping its surfaces and striking platform in a specific sequence. The goal is to predetermine the shape and size of the flake that will be detached with a single, decisive blow. The resulting Levallois flakes have characteristic features, such as a faceted platform and converging dorsal scars, and are immediately usable as tools (like points or scrapers) or can be further modified through secondary retouch. This method is highly economical as it allows for the production of multiple standardized and efficient flakes from a single core. The adoption of the Levallois and other prepared core techniques during the Middle Palaeolithic across India signifies a major cognitive advance. It demonstrates an ability for abstract thought, complex procedural planning, and a deeper understanding of stone fracture mechanics, distinguishing it clearly from the more direct percussion methods used for making Lower Palaeolithic core tools.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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276. What is the primary objective of the Levallois technique as described in the passage?
(A) To predetermine the shape and size of a flake before it is detached.
(B) To produce the largest and heaviest core tool possible.
(C) To create long, parallel-sided blades from a prismatic core.
(D) To manufacture pebble tools with a minimal number of strikes.

277. The passage identifies which feature as characteristic of a Levallois flake?
(A) A cortex-covered surface and a simple platform.
(B) A bifacially worked cutting edge.
(C) A polished surface and ground edges.
(D) A faceted platform and converging dorsal scars.

278. The use of the prepared core technique is considered a significant cognitive advance because it demonstrates:
(A) The ability to hunt large, dangerous animals.
(B) The capacity for complex planning and

considered characteristic tool types of the Middle Palaeolithic culture.

30. (D) The walls and ceilings of rock shelters and caves.

Prehistoric art in the Indian subcontinent is most frequently discovered within rock shelters and caves. These natural geological features provided protected surfaces where ancient hunter-gatherer communities could express themselves through paintings and engravings. The walls and ceilings of these shelters served as canvases for depicting animals, hunting scenes, and social activities. Regions with abundant sandstone or limestone formations, such as central India, contain some of the richest concentrations of this ancient and symbolic artistic record.

31. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Belan Valley is frequently described as a textbook of Indian prehistory because of its exceptional archaeological record. The river's stratified deposits have preserved an almost continuous cultural sequence, beginning from the Lower Palaeolithic and extending through the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, and into the Iron Age. This uninterrupted progression within a single geographical area allows researchers to study long-term technological changes, subsistence patterns, and cultural evolution in a clear and well-defined stratigraphic context.

32. (B) France

The term Acheulian is an archaeological designation for a widespread Lower Palaeolithic stone tool industry. It is named after the type-site of Saint-Acheul, located in northern France, where these distinctive bifacial tools were first systematically identified and described in the nineteenth century. Although the industry is named after a European location, the handaxe-cleaver complex is found extensively across Africa, Western Asia, and the Indian subcontinent, representing one of the longest-lasting cultural traditions in human history.

33. (B) The Sohan Valley is a river valley located within the Potwar Plateau.

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Geographically, the Sohan Valley is a specific river system situated within the larger Potwar Plateau region. The plateau is located in the northern part of the subcontinent, in modern-day Pakistan. This river valley became the namesake for the Sohan industry because its terraces yielded significant assemblages of pebble-based stone tools. The relationship between the two is that the valley is a prominent landform within the broader geological and archaeological context of the Potwar Plateau uplands.

34. (A) Controlling flake shape by shaping the core.

A fundamental element of the Levallois technique is the deliberate preparation of a stone core before a flake is removed. Instead of randomly striking a stone, the toolmaker carefully flakes the surface of the core to create a specific convex shape. This preparation allows the knapper to control the exact size and form of the final flake tool that is eventually detached. This method demonstrates a significant advancement in human foresight, planning, and mastery over lithic materials.

35. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Several geographical regions are fundamental to understanding the Indian Stone Age. The Sivalik hills provide evidence for early industries, while the Kortlayar valley contains some of the subcontinent's oldest dated tools. The Belan and Son valleys are famous for their long, uninterrupted sequences of human occupation. Additionally, the Didwana region offers vital information regarding how Palaeolithic populations adapted to arid environments. Collectively, these areas provide a comprehensive view of prehistoric cultural and environmental changes in India.

36. (D) Indus valley (in its upper reaches near Harappa)

While many major river systems in India are famous for Acheulian sites, the upper reaches of the Indus Valley near Harappa are not typically associated with this specific Lower Palaeolithic industry. In contrast, the Narmada, Godavari, and Hunsgi valleys have yielded massive quantities of handaxes and cleavers in well-defined archaeological contexts. The Harappa region is primarily known for its later Bronze Age urban civilization, whereas the Acheulian tradition is

The Upper Palaeolithic in India is indeed characterized by a diversification of tool types and the innovative use of materials like bone. However, the climate during this period was not generally warmer and wetter; instead, much of the Upper Palaeolithic coincided with the late Pleistocene, which was often colder and more arid than the present day. These environmental conditions influenced the subsistence strategies and mobility patterns of prehistoric populations as they adapted to the challenges of a fluctuating climate.

52. (D) The successful expansion of hominins across landscapes.

The spread of the Acheulian industry into major river systems like the Krishna and Godavari valleys demonstrates the successful expansion of early humans across the Indian subcontinent. It indicates that these Palaeolithic populations were highly mobile and capable of adapting their stone tool technology to various ecological zones. The presence of handaxes and cleavers in these diverse peninsular river valleys suggests that hominins effectively utilized riverine corridors and their associated resources to colonize vast areas of the landscape.

53. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Lithic technologies in India evolved through distinct stages with specific characteristics. The Sohan industry primarily utilized river pebbles, while the Acheulian tradition is defined by its bifacial handaxes. The Middle Palaeolithic saw the significant innovation of the Levallois or prepared core technique. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic period is distinguished by the sophisticated production of stone blades. Together, these technological developments reflect the increasing complexity and efficiency of stone tool manufacture throughout the long duration of the Palaeolithic era.

54. (B) A shallow, temporary lake bed in an arid region.

In the context of the prehistoric and geological study of Rajasthan, a playa refers to a shallow, temporary lake bed found in arid or semi-arid regions. These playas are significant because they served as important water sources for Palaeolithic populations during wetter climatic phases in the past. Archaeological sites found near these ancient lake beds provide crucial evidence for human occupation and environmental conditions in the Thar Desert, allowing researchers to study how prehistoric groups navigated fluctuating desert landscapes.

55. (D) Middle Palaeolithic - Levallois technique

Technological phases of the Stone Age are correctly identified by their characteristic tools and methods. The Middle Palaeolithic is definitively associated with the Levallois or prepared core technique, which allowed for the production of standardized flakes. In contrast, chopper-chopping tools are characteristic of the Sohan industry, handaxes belong to the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian, and blade and burin tools are hallmarks of the Upper Palaeolithic. Therefore, the pairing of the Middle Palaeolithic with the Levallois technique is the only accurate match.

56. (A) Lower Palaeolithic

The Acheulian industry is a widespread stone tool tradition that is chronologically placed within the Lower Palaeolithic period in the Indian subcontinent. It is characterized by the production of bifacially flaked tools, most notably handaxes and cleavers. This industry represents one of the earliest and longest-lasting cultural phases in human prehistory. Its presence across diverse regions of India signifies the early occupation of the subcontinent by hominins who shared a common technological tradition of large core tool manufacture.

57. (C) The Toba volcanic super-eruption.

The evidence from the site of Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh is critically important for discussing the impact of the Toba volcanic super-eruption on Palaeolithic populations. This massive eruption occurred approximately seventy-four thousand years ago, depositing layers of volcanic ash across large parts of South Asia. By finding stone tools above and below these ash layers at Jwalapuram, archaeologists can examine whether prehistoric humans survived this global environmental catastrophe and how their cultural and technological traditions were affected by the event.

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Based on geo-chronological evidence from the Sivalik hills and the terraces of the Sohan River, the Sohan industry is accurately classified as an early Lower Palaeolithic culture. This tradition involves the manufacture of simple chopper and chopping tools from river pebbles and represents some of the earliest evidence of human activity in the northwestern subcontinent. Its chronological position within ancient geological layers confirms its antiquity, placing it alongside the Acheulian as one of the oldest tool-making traditions in India.

45. (B) A cultural connection and spread of technology across different river systems.

The presence of Acheulian tools in geographically separated areas like the Belan and Son valleys indicates a significant cultural connection across the subcontinent. It suggests that prehistoric human populations were not isolated but moved across various river systems, carrying their tool-making traditions with them. This widespread distribution of handaxes and cleavers reflects a successful adaptation of Acheulian technology to different environments and shows the expansion of early hominins into diverse ecological zones within the Indian landscape.

46. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The study of the 16R sand dune at Didwana is fundamental for understanding how Palaeolithic populations adapted to desert environments. This site contains stratified layers of stone tools buried within deep sand deposits, which correspond to different geological periods. These layers provide evidence of human activity during wetter climatic phases when resources were more abundant in the Thar Desert. By analyzing these stratified tool assemblages, researchers can reconstruct the relationship between ancient climatic fluctuations and prehistoric human movements.

47. (A) A flake twice as long as wide with parallel edges.

In lithic technology, a blade is a specific type of stone flake that is distinguished by its proportions and shape. It is defined as a flake that is at least twice as long as it is wide and typically possesses roughly parallel lateral edges. Blades represent a more advanced and efficient method of tool production compared to earlier flakes, as they provide a long cutting edge. The systematic production of these blades from prepared cores is a hallmark of the Upper Palaeolithic period.

48. (B) Widespread, but with major concentrations in central India and the Deccan.

Prehistoric art in India is found across many regions, but its distribution is not uniform. There are significant concentrations of rock paintings and engravings in the sandstone shelters of central India, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, and across parts of the Deccan Plateau. These areas provided ideal natural surfaces for ancient artists to record their symbolic and daily activities. While sites exist elsewhere, these two regions remain the primary hubs for studying the aesthetic and social lives of ancient communities.

49. (A) Light-duty flake tools: scrapers, points, and borers.

The Middle Palaeolithic toolkit is best described as a collection of light-duty flake tools. During this period, stone tool technology moved away from the large, heavy bifacial implements of the Lower Palaeolithic. Instead, populations focused on creating smaller, more refined tools such as scrapers for hide work, points for hunting, and borers for piercing. These tools were manufactured from flakes struck from prepared cores, reflecting a shift toward greater tool specialization and more efficient use of stone raw materials.

50. (A) Extensive Acheulian seasonal settlement patterns.

The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka are particularly noted for providing evidence of extensive Acheulian seasonal settlement patterns. Archaeological research in these valleys has revealed numerous sites where early humans repeatedly gathered, likely due to the presence of perennial springs and high-quality limestone for tool-making. The high density of artifacts and the specific locations of the sites suggest that these valleys were significant areas for long-term habitation and resource exploitation by Lower Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer groups.

51. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

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Lower Palaeolithic, stone tool production focused on large core tools like handaxes and cleavers. During the Middle Palaeolithic, however, toolmakers increasingly utilized smaller flakes struck from prepared cores to create a variety of specialized implements such as scrapers, points, and borers. This shift allowed for a more efficient use of raw materials and the development of a more versatile and refined toolkit.

93. (A) Hunter-gatherer groups familiar with the local landscape and animal life.

The distribution and content of prehistoric rock art in India strongly suggest that the artists were hunter-gatherer groups intimately familiar with their environment. The frequent depiction of wild animals, hunting scenes, and gatherer activities reflects the daily life and survival strategies of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic communities. These artists used natural rock shelters as canvases to record their experiences and symbolic beliefs. Their deep knowledge of animal behavior and the local landscape is evident in the detailed and lively representations found across the subcontinent.

94. (D) They contain datable deposits context for Sohan tools.

The Sivalik hills are a crucial region for Stone Age studies because they provide datable geological contexts for some of the earliest stone industries in India. The stratified river terraces and sedimentary deposits in this region have yielded Sohan industry tools in association with fossils and geological layers that can be dated using scientific methods. This allows researchers to establish a secure chronological framework for the pebble-tool tradition, making the Sivaliks essential for understanding the timing and environmental context of early human activity.

95. (A) Neolithic

The Palaeolithic period is divided into the Lower, Middle, and Upper phases, each characterized by specific stone tool technologies like the Acheulian, Sohanian, and Mousterian. In contrast, the Neolithic is a distinct and later period marked by the transition to settled agriculture, animal domestication, and the use of polished stone tools and pottery. Therefore, while the Acheulian and Sohanian are integral parts of the Palaeolithic era, the Neolithic represents a fundamentally different stage of human cultural and economic development.

96. (B) Standardized blade production from prismatic cores.

A defining feature of the Upper Palaeolithic lithic industry is the systematic and standardized production of blades from prismatic cores. Unlike the earlier flake-based industries, this method allowed for the creation of long, thin, and sharp stone tools with parallel sides. These blades provided a significant increase in the total length of cutting edge obtainable from a single piece of raw material. This technological innovation supported the manufacture of various specialized tools, including burins and composite implements, reflecting increased efficiency and refined craftsmanship.

97. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2

The different phases of the Palaeolithic are distinguished by their primary technological and cultural features. The Lower Palaeolithic is characterized by the dominance of the handaxe-cleaver complex, particularly in the Acheulian tradition. The Middle Palaeolithic is marked by the widespread use of the Levallois or prepared core technique to produce flake tools. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic is recognized for the appearance of bone tools and the earliest expressions of prehistoric art, reflecting a significant advancement in human technology and symbolic behavior.

98. (A) River terraces of the Sohan river system.

The geo-chronological context for Palaeolithic sites in the Potwar Plateau is primarily established through the study of the river terraces associated with the Sohan River and its tributaries. As the river cut through geological layers over thousands of years, it formed a series of terraces that preserved stone tools and fossils in stratified contexts. By analyzing these terraces and their relative positions, archaeologists can reconstruct the sequence of the Sohan industry and relate it to broader climatic and geological changes in the northwestern subcontinent.

99. (C) The primary tools were handaxes and cleavers.

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58. (A) Quartzite

Quartzite was the primary raw material used for manufacturing Acheulian tools in many river valley sites across India, such as the Narmada and Sabarmati. This metamorphic rock was highly valued by Palaeolithic people for its durability, hardness, and predictable flaking properties, which were essential for creating large bifacial tools like handaxes and cleavers. The availability of quartzite boulders and nodules in riverbeds and rocky outcrops largely determined the location of many significant Lower Palaeolithic settlements and tool-making workshops.

59. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Different Palaeolithic industries in India are defined by their dominant tool types. The Sohan industry is primarily characterized by the manufacture of pebble-based choppers. The Acheulian tradition is well known for its bifacial cleavers and handaxes. The Middle Palaeolithic focused on producing various types of scrapers on flakes using prepared core methods. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic period is distinguished by the production of specialized tools like burins, which were used for engraving and working bone or other organic materials.

60. (B) The first appearance of pottery.

The Upper Palaeolithic culture in India is recognized for several significant advancements, including the systematic production of stone blades, the use of bone for making tools, and the early expressions of prehistoric art. However, the first appearance of pottery is not a feature of this period. Pottery is a later technological innovation that is characteristic of the Neolithic and subsequent periods, associated with settled village life and the storage of food. Therefore, pottery does not belong to the Upper Palaeolithic record.

61. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Prehistoric rock paintings serve as vital evidence of the symbolic and cognitive capacities of early humans, going beyond simple survival needs. These artworks often depict complex hunting scenes and ritualistic figures, suggesting that ancient communities possessed a sophisticated worldview and the ability to communicate non-utilitarian ideas. By analyzing these subjects, researchers can understand the aesthetic values and social rituals of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic populations, proving that their lives involved significant symbolic expression alongside their practical daily activities for subsistence.

62. (A) Middle Palaeolithic

The Middle Palaeolithic is the cultural phase that immediately follows the Lower Palaeolithic and precedes the Upper Palaeolithic. In the Indian subcontinent, this period is marked by a shift in technology from heavy-duty core tools, like handaxes, to lighter flake-based tools. It represents a significant transitional stage in human prehistory, characterized by the refinement of flaking techniques and the development of a more diverse toolkit. This phase is followed by the blade and bone tool industries of the Upper Palaeolithic.

63. (A) Ganga

The Son river is a major southern tributary of the Ganga river system, flowing through central and northern India. The Son valley is of immense archaeological importance as it served as a crucial geographical corridor for Palaeolithic populations. The river's stratified deposits have preserved a long sequence of stone tool industries, allowing researchers to study the movement and cultural evolution of early human groups. Its connection to the Ganga plain made it a vital link for prehistoric communities across the subcontinent.

64. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The Lower Palaeolithic in India consists of the pebble-tool Sohan tradition and the widespread Acheulian industry. The Acheulian is defined by bifacial tools, while Attirampakkam has provided exceptionally early dates for this technology. However, the claim that the entire Lower Palaeolithic used only bone tools is incorrect, as stone remained the primary material. Therefore, only the first four statements accurately reflect the diversity of traditions, their tool types, and the significant findings from key sites like Attirampakkam.

65. (B) Availability of springs and quality limestone.

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The high concentration of Acheulian sites in the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys of Karnataka is primarily attributed to favorable environmental resources. These valleys contain numerous perennial artesian springs, which provided a reliable water source for prehistoric hunter-gatherers. Additionally, the region offered an abundant supply of high-quality limestone, which served as a unique raw material for manufacturing bifacial stone tools. This combination of water and suitable stone made these valleys ideal locations for long-term occupation and seasonal settlement activities.

66. (A) Increased mobility and changing tool task needs.

The transition to smaller and lighter flake-based tools during the Middle Palaeolithic is believed to reflect broader changes in human behavior. These technological shifts were likely driven by the need for more versatile tools to handle specialized tasks and the requirements of increased mobility across diverse landscapes. Flake tools were easier to carry and could be quickly modified for different purposes. This shift indicates that Palaeolithic populations were developing more efficient subsistence strategies and adapting their toolkit to meet evolving environmental challenges.

67. (C) A chisel-like tool for engraving bone and wood.

A burin is a specialized stone tool that became prominent during the Upper Palaeolithic period. It is characterized by a narrow, chisel-like working edge created by the removal of a small, longitudinal flake. This design makes it ideal for engraving and carving harder organic materials such as bone, antler, and wood. The emergence of the burin reflects the increasing complexity of human crafts and the development of specialized tools for creating both utilitarian items and symbolic objects like ornaments and art.

68. (C) Establish a timeline for stone tool industries and human occupation.

Geo-chronology is a fundamental discipline in prehistoric archaeology used to establish a timeline for ancient human activities. By studying geological formations, river terraces, and stratified sediments, researchers can determine the age of the stone tool industries found within them. This provides a scientific framework for understanding the chronological sequence of different cultures and the duration of human occupation in various regions. Geo-chronological studies are essential for reconstructing the long-term history of the Stone Age across the Indian subcontinent.

69. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

The Acheulian industry is remarkable for the high degree of uniformity in its handaxe and cleaver designs over vast geographical areas, including India. However, the Sohan industry is not found all over the subcontinent from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu. Instead, it is primarily a regional tradition concentrated in the northwestern region, particularly the Sivalik hills and the Potwar Plateau. While the Acheulian tradition is widespread across much of peninsular and northern India, the Sohan industry remains geographically restricted.

70. (B) The cultural material is found in a clear, stratified context associated with river deposits.

The Belan valley is exceptionally significant for prehistoric studies because its cultural remains are found in a clear, stratified context. The river's alluvial deposits have preserved layers of stone tools that correspond to the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic phases, continuing into later periods. This stratification allows archaeologists to establish a relative chronology and study the evolution of technology and human behavior over hundreds of thousands of years. Such well-preserved geological contexts are rare and essential for reliable archaeological research.

71. (B) 2, 3 and 4

Middle Palaeolithic technology in India is defined by several key innovations. The prepared core technique became a central method for stone tool production, allowing for greater control over flake shapes. Populations also showed a preference for using fine-grained materials like chert and jasper when available. The resulting toolkit was dominated by flake-based implements such as scrapers, points, and borers. In contrast, large handaxes are characteristic of the earlier Lower

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Palaeolithic, making the first statement incorrect in this context.

72. (A) Hominin presence in the Thar Desert region during periods of better climate.

The discovery of Palaeolithic tools within the stratified sand dune profile of 16R at Didwana provides evidence of human presence in the Thar Desert. These findings indicate that early hominins inhabited the region during phases when the climate was wetter and more favorable for survival. The stratified layers show that human activity occurred repeatedly over long periods, interrupted by more arid phases. This site is crucial for reconstructing the relationship between ancient climatic changes and the occupation of desert landscapes.

73. (C) The shape of their working edge (pointed vs. a broad, straight edge).

Handaxes and cleavers are both characteristic bifacial tools of the Acheulian industry, but they are distinguished by their working edges. A handaxe is typically pear-shaped or oval and tapers to a pointed or rounded end suitable for piercing or digging. In contrast, a cleaver possesses a broad, transverse, and straight cutting edge at one end, similar to a modern axe or cleaver. This difference in shape suggests that these tools were designed for different functional tasks during the Lower Palaeolithic.

74. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Upper Palaeolithic period is characterized by a significant increase in the diversity and specialization of the stone toolkit. This was made possible by the development of blade and burin technology, which allowed toolmakers to produce more standardized and efficient implements. Blades provided long cutting edges, while burins were specialized for engraving organic materials. This technological advancement enabled prehistoric populations to create a wider range of tools for specific tasks, reflecting an overall increase in cognitive complexity and resource management skills.

75. (D) Upper Palaeolithic

In the Indian archaeological record, bone implements began to appear significantly during the Upper Palaeolithic period. While stone remained the dominant material earlier, this later phase saw a shift towards using animal bone, antler, and ivory to craft specialized tools. Implements such as needles, harpoons, and points were produced using these organic materials. This diversification of raw materials reflects the technological ingenuity of Upper Palaeolithic populations and their ability to create more refined tools for hunting, sewing, and other specialized activities.

76. (A) 4, 2, 3, 1

The chronological appearance of tool types in India follows the evolution of Stone Age cultures. Simple pebble-based choppers appeared first during the early Lower Palaeolithic. They were followed by the bifacial cleavers of the Acheulian industry. Later, the Middle Palaeolithic was characterized by a variety of flake-based scrapers. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic introduced sophisticated implements like bone needles. This sequence reflects the long-term progression of human technology from large, simple tools to smaller, more refined, and specialized implements across the Palaeolithic.

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77. (A) The southward expansion of Acheulian populations.

Studying the Palaeolithic cultures of the Krishna and Godavari valleys is essential for understanding the southward expansion of Acheulian populations in India. These river valleys in the Deccan Plateau have yielded extensive evidence of handaxe and cleaver industries, showing that early humans successfully moved from northern and central India into the peninsular region. The distribution of these sites indicates how prehistoric groups utilized riverine corridors to colonize diverse ecological zones, reflecting their mobility and adaptation to the varied landscapes of South India.

78. (B) It is found extensively in the Belan and Son valleys.

The Sohan industry is a regional Lower Palaeolithic tradition named after the Sohan River in the Potwar Plateau. While it is characterized by pebble tools like choppers and is chronologically part of the early Stone Age, it is not found extensively in the Belan and Son valleys. Those valleys are

primarily known for their stratified Acheulian, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic sequences. The Sohan industry remains geographically focused in the northwestern subcontinent, distinguishing it from the more widespread Acheulian tradition.

79. (A) Upper Palaeolithic culture

The technology used to produce a series of standardized blades from a single, prepared prismatic core is a defining characteristic of the Upper Palaeolithic culture. This method represents a significant advancement over earlier flaking techniques, as it allows for the efficient production of numerous thin, sharp tools with long cutting edges from a relatively small amount of stone. These blades were often modified into specialized implements like burins or used as blanks for composite tools, reflecting the technological sophistication of this period.

80. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Palaeolithic river valleys in India are situated within distinct geographical regions. The Sohan Valley is located in the Sivalik hills of northern Pakistan. The Narmada Valley flows through central India, primarily in Madhya Pradesh, and is famous for its rich Acheulian assemblages. The Hunsgi Valley is a significant archaeological area in the state of Karnataka. Additionally, the Kortlayar Valley is located in Tamil Nadu and is home to the ancient Palaeolithic site of Attirampakkam. These valleys provide key stratigraphic records.

81. (B) Earth history studies providing cultural timelines.

In the context of the Stone Age, geo-chronology refers to the use of earth science and geological studies to establish a timeline for prehistoric cultures. By analyzing stratified deposits, river terraces, and volcanic ash layers, researchers can determine the age of the stone tools and human activities found within them. This provides an essential chronological framework for understanding the sequence of different Palaeolithic phases. Geo-chronology bridges the gap between geological time and human history, allowing for a scientific dating of the prehistoric past.

82. (A) Middle Palaeolithic

The Levallois technique is most characteristically associated with the Middle Palaeolithic period. This method involves the careful preparation of a stone core to produce a flake of a predetermined shape and size. It represents a significant technological advancement over the simpler flaking methods of the Lower Palaeolithic and allowed for the manufacture of more standardized and specialized flake tools. The widespread use of this technique across the Indian subcontinent during the Middle Palaeolithic signifies a major cognitive and technological shift among prehistoric populations.

83. (C) 1, 2 and 3

Prehistoric art in India is primarily found as rock paintings in caves and shelters, depicting subjects like animals, hunting scenes, and human figures. The origins of this artistic expression are generally traced back to the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. However, the claim that these paintings were exclusively made using a single color is incorrect, as many sites exhibit polychrome art with various shades of red, white, and other pigments. Therefore, only the first three statements accurately describe the nature and antiquity of Indian prehistoric art.

84. (D) They preserve long, stratified tool and fossil sequences.

River valleys like the Narmada, Sabarmati, Belan, and Son are crucial for Indian Palaeolithic studies because they act as geological archives. The alluvial processes of these rivers have deposited and buried stone tools and animal fossils in clear, stratified layers over hundreds of thousands of years. These stratified sequences allow archaeologists to reconstruct the chronological order of different tool industries and the environmental changes that occurred over time. Such contexts are essential for building a reliable and scientific timeline for the prehistoric occupation of the subcontinent.

85. (C) Handaxe

A handaxe is the hallmark tool type of the Acheulian industry during the Lower Palaeolithic. It is a bifacially flaked core tool that typically has a pear-shaped, oval, or triangular form. The manufacture involves flaking both sides of a stone nodule to create a sharp cutting edge along

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the perimeter. These versatile tools were used for a variety of tasks such as butchering, digging, and woodworking. Their consistent design over vast regions and long periods reflects a deeply entrenched technological tradition among early human populations.

86. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The transition from the Middle to the Upper Palaeolithic involves more than just a change in stone tool types; it also reflects profound behavioral and cognitive developments. This period saw the emergence of prehistoric art, personal ornaments like beads, and the systematic use of bone for specialized tools. These innovations suggest significant advancements in symbolic thought, social communication, and cultural complexity. The shift toward blade and burin technology, combined with symbolic expression, marks the beginning of modern human behavior in the archaeological record of the subcontinent.

87. (D) A very early Acheulian presence in the Indian subcontinent.

Attirampakkam, located in the Kortlayar valley of Tamil Nadu, is exceptionally significant for providing evidence of a very early Acheulian presence in India. Recent scientific dating methods, such as luminescence dating, have pushed the age of the stone tool assemblages at this site back to over one million years. This discovery has major implications for understanding the migration of early hominins out of Africa and the antiquity of human occupation in South Asia, making Attirampakkam a key site for global Palaeolithic research.

88. (A) Sohan industry

A tool assemblage consisting of choppers, chopping tools, and flakes made on quartzite pebbles recovered from the terraces of the Sohan River is classified as the Sohan industry. This Lower Palaeolithic tradition is primarily unifacial or simple bifacial in nature and lacks the complex handaxes and cleavers of the contemporary Acheulian tradition. Found in the northwestern subcontinent, the Sohan industry reflects a regional technological adaptation to the abundant river pebbles available in the Sivalik hills and the Potwar Plateau region.

89. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

The Acheulian industry exhibits a much more extensive geographical distribution across India compared to the regionally restricted Sohan industry. This widespread presence is due to the inherent adaptability of the Acheulian toolkit, particularly its handaxes and cleavers. These bifacial tools were versatile and effective across various ecological settings, from river valleys to plateau regions. The ability of Acheulian populations to adapt their technology to different environments allowed them to successfully colonize vast areas of the subcontinent, far exceeding the reach of the Sohan tradition.

90. (A) Systematically shaped to produce a predetermined flake.

The term prepared core refers to a stone nodule that has been systematically shaped by a toolmaker before any final flakes are removed. By flaking the surface of the core in a specific manner, the manufacturer can pre-determine the exact size and shape of the flake that will eventually be detached. This technique, most notably the Levallois method, demonstrates a significant cognitive advancement, as it requires the toolmaker to have a clear mental image of the desired tool before beginning the manufacturing process.

91. (C) 1, 2 and 4 only

The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka are renowned for their high density of Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian sites. Research suggests that these valleys were occupied seasonally by prehistoric groups who utilized the abundant perennial springs. While limestone was used for tools in some areas, quartzite was also common elsewhere. Furthermore, the Sohan industry is a northwestern tradition and is not found in South India. Therefore, only the statements regarding the location, site density, and seasonal occupation patterns are accurate for these Karnataka valleys.

92. (B) Flake tools

The primary technological change from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic was the increased emphasis on flake tools. In the earlier

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distributed across the peninsular and central riverine landscapes of India.

37. (C) Upper Palaeolithic

The Upper Palaeolithic period is marked by a notable expansion in the variety of raw materials used for tool production. While stone remained important, there was a significant increase in the manufacture of bone implements. Tools such as points, awls, and harpoons were crafted from animal bone, antler, and ivory. This technological shift allowed for more refined and specialized equipment, reflecting the diverse hunting and processing activities of human groups during the final stages of the Palaeolithic period.

38. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1

Arranging these Palaeolithic regions from north to south follows the geography of the Indian subcontinent. The Sohan Valley is located furthest north in the Potwar Plateau region. Moving southwards, the Narmada Valley flows through central India. Further south is the Hunsgi Valley in Karnataka. Finally, the Kortlayar Valley is located in Tamil Nadu, representing the southernmost of these listed river systems. This sequence reflects the broad geographical spread of Stone Age cultures across the entire subcontinent.

39. (D) Produce flakes of standardized shapes.

The primary objective of the prepared core technique, such as the Levallois method, was to achieve greater control over the tool-making process. By shaping the stone core beforehand, the manufacturer could produce flakes of highly standardized shapes and sizes. This innovation allowed for more efficient use of raw materials and the creation of specific tool types like points and scrapers. It represents a shift towards technological standardization and a sophisticated understanding of the properties of stone during the Middle Palaeolithic.

40. (A) Middle Palaeolithic

An archaeological assemblage characterized by a variety of scrapers, points, and borers made on stone flakes is typical of the Middle Palaeolithic culture. During this period, there was a significant technological shift away from the large, heavy bifacial tools like handaxes found in the Lower Palaeolithic. Instead, populations focused on creating a lighter and more specialized toolkit from flakes. These tools were versatile and well-suited for a range of activities including skinning, woodworking, and the production of composite tools.

41. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Archaeological sites across the Indian subcontinent are distributed within specific modern states based on geographical features. Didwana is a crucial site located in Rajasthan for studying arid zone adaptations. Hunsgi and Baichabal are famous for Acheulian industries in Karnataka. Attirampakkam represents a very early Palaeolithic presence in Tamil Nadu. Finally, Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh is notable for its stratigraphic sequence involving volcanic ash from the Toba eruption. These sites help reconstruct India's long prehistoric past across different regions.

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42. (A) The Sivalik hills of the Potwar Plateau

While the Acheulian industrial complex is found throughout much of the Indian subcontinent, the pebble-tool based Sohan industry is specifically associated with the northwestern region. This tradition is primarily identified within the Sivalik hills of the Potwar Plateau. The availability of rounded river pebbles in this area influenced the development of a unique lithic technology focused on unifacial and bifacial choppers. This regional distinction remains a key topic in understanding the diversity of Lower Palaeolithic cultures in India.

43. (A) 1, 2, 3, and 4

The Palaeolithic sequence in India is defined by several major developments. The Lower Palaeolithic includes the Sohan and Acheulian industries, while the Middle Palaeolithic is marked by flake tools. The Upper Palaeolithic saw the rise of blade and bone technologies and the earliest evidence of prehistoric art. However, the Levallois technique, while sophisticated, is a characteristic of the Middle Palaeolithic, not the Upper Palaeolithic. Therefore, only the first four statements correctly describe the cultural progression of this era.

44. (B) It is an early Lower Palaeolithic culture.

The Middle Palaeolithic in India is characterized by a lighter toolkit dominated by tools made on flakes, such as scrapers, borers, and points. The use of the Levallois or prepared core technique was a hallmark of this period. However, suggesting that handaxes and cleavers were the primary tools is incorrect, as these are the defining implements of the preceding Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tradition. During the Middle Palaeolithic, these heavy core tools became far less common as technological focus shifted toward smaller, more specialized flake-based implements.

100. (A) Extensive geographical spread of the Acheulian culture in Peninsular India.

The discovery of Acheulian sites across the Kortlayar, Krishna, and Godavari valleys demonstrates the extensive geographical spread of this Lower Palaeolithic culture throughout Peninsular India. It shows that early human populations were not confined to the northern regions but successfully adapted to the diverse environments of the southern Deccan Plateau. The widespread presence of handaxes and cleavers across these major river systems indicates a highly mobile population and the effective colonization of various ecological zones within the vast landscape of the Indian subcontinent.

101. (C) It shows a cultural layer sealed by volcanic ash marker.

Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh is significant because it features archaeological layers that are effectively sealed by a thick deposit of volcanic ash. This ash originated from the Toba super-eruption about seventy-four thousand years ago and serves as a precise chronological marker. The presence of Palaeolithic tools both below and above this ash layer allows researchers to investigate whether human populations survived the massive environmental impact of the eruption. This site provides a rare opportunity to study cultural continuity across a major global disaster.

102. (A) 4, 3, 2, 1

The evolutionary sequence of lithic technology in India began with simple pebble tool manufacture. This was followed by the development of bifacial tools like handaxes during the Acheulian phase of the Lower Palaeolithic. Subsequently, the Middle Palaeolithic introduced the manufacture of flake tools using the sophisticated Levallois or prepared core technique. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic was characterized by the systematic production of blades. This progression reflects the increasing cognitive complexity, manual skill, and technological efficiency of prehistoric humans over hundreds of thousands of years.

103. (D) Bifacial handaxes and cleavers

The Acheulian culture is a widespread Lower Palaeolithic tradition defined by its distinctive bifacial tools, primarily handaxes and cleavers. These tools were manufactured by flaking both sides of a stone nodule to create sharp cutting edges and specific shapes. The handaxe tapers to a point, while the cleaver features a broad, straight edge. This sophisticated bifacial technology is found across much of the Old World, including India, and represents a long-standing cultural tradition used for various butchery and processing tasks.

104. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only

Many key Palaeolithic sites and regions are correctly matched with their modern locations. The Sohan Valley is situated in the Sivalik hills, Didwana is a prominent site in Rajasthan, and Attirampakkam is located in Tamil Nadu. However, the Hunsgi Valley is located in Karnataka, not Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, only the first three pairs are correctly matched. These sites are essential for understanding the geographical distribution of Stone Age cultures across the varied landscapes of the northern, western, and southern parts of India.

105. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

The Upper Palaeolithic culture indeed witnessed a significant increase in the use of organic materials like bone, ivory, and antler for tool manufacture. However, the claim that Upper Palaeolithic technology was less efficient than that of the Middle Palaeolithic is false. In fact, the systematic production of blades from prepared cores was a much more efficient method, producing more cutting edge from a given amount of raw material. This technological advancement allowed for greater tool specialization and more

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Deccan Plateau. This extensive spread reflects the adaptability and mobility of early hominin populations across the varied landscapes of ancient India.

119. (D) Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

The antiquity of prehistoric art in India is generally associated with the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. While some earlier traces of symbolic behavior may exist, the most definitive and widespread evidence of rock paintings and engravings emerges during these phases. These artworks, found in natural rock shelters, provide insights into the social life, ritual practices, and environmental perceptions of ancient hunter-gatherers. The development of this artistic tradition marks a major cognitive and cultural milestone, reflecting the complex symbolic worlds inhabited by prehistoric communities.

120. (A) 1, 2 and 3

Several statements accurately describe the technological features of the Indian Palaeolithic. Handaxes are indeed characteristic of the Acheulian industry, while the Levallois technique is a specialized method for producing flakes of a predetermined shape. Bone implements also emerge as a notable feature during the Upper Palaeolithic. However, the Sohan industry is a pebble-tool tradition, not a blade-and-burin industry, which is characteristic of the Upper Palaeolithic. Therefore, only the first three statements correctly reflect the technological traditions of the different Palaeolithic phases.

121. (D) The rich concentration of Acheulian assemblages, often with animal fossils.

The Palaeolithic sites in the Narmada valley are highly significant due to their rich concentration of Acheulian assemblages. This region has yielded vast quantities of handaxes and cleavers within well-defined geological layers. Importantly, these stone tools are often found in association with the fossilized remains of ancient animals, providing valuable information about the fauna and environmental conditions of the Pleistocene era. The Narmada valley serves as a critical area for correlating stone tool industries with vertebrate paleontology and reconstructing the prehistoric landscapes of central India.

122. (B) It produced more cutting edge from a given amount of raw material.

The development of blade technology in the Upper Palaeolithic was a major technological advancement because of its efficiency. By systematically producing long, thin blades from a prepared core, prehistoric toolmakers could obtain a significantly greater total length of sharp cutting edge from a single piece of raw material compared to earlier flaking methods. This innovation allowed for more economical use of stone resources and the creation of more refined and versatile tools. It reflects the increasing technological sophistication and strategic resource management of Upper Palaeolithic populations.

123. (A) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands

While many regions across the Indian subcontinent are famous for Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian sites, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are not among them. In contrast, river valleys like the Narmada, Sabarmati, Hunsgi, Baichabal, Belan, and Son have yielded extensive evidence of handaxe and cleaver industries. The Acheulian culture is widely distributed across the mainland, reflecting the colonization of diverse inland and peninsular landscapes by early humans. However, there is no confirmed evidence of this specific Palaeolithic industry in the isolated island chains of the Bay of Bengal.

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124. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Middle Palaeolithic culture is frequently identified as a flake tool tradition because of its primary technological focus. During this period, hominins shifted away from producing large and heavy core tools like handaxes and cleavers. Instead, they prioritized the manufacture of lighter implements such as scrapers, borers, and points created on flakes. This transition indicates a refined method of utilizing raw stone materials for more specialized tasks. The dominance of these flake-based tools is a defining characteristic that distinguishes this phase from the preceding Lower Palaeolithic.

125. (C) Lithic artifacts and their geo-chronological context.

The Upper Palaeolithic is the period of the Stone Age characterized by the systematic production of blade tools and the significant use of organic materials like bone for making implements. This phase is also notable for the first definitive appearance of prehistoric art and symbolic expression in the archaeological record. These technological and cultural innovations mark a significant departure from the earlier Palaeolithic phases, reflecting advanced cognitive abilities, refined craftsmanship, and the development of more complex social and symbolic lives among ancient hunter-gatherer populations.

113. (B) Middle Palaeolithic culture

An archaeological assemblage dominated by various scrapers, points, and borers made on stone flakes is highly characteristic of the Middle Palaeolithic culture. During this period, toolmakers shifted their focus from large core tools to more specialized flake-based implements. By utilizing techniques like the Levallois method, they produced a versatile toolkit suitable for tasks such as butchery, hide working, and woodworking. This emphasis on smaller, refined flake tools is a defining technological trait that distinguishes the Middle Palaeolithic from the preceding handaxe-cleaver industries of the Acheulian.

114. (A) Lower to Middle Palaeolithic

The transition from core-based tool manufacturing to flake-based industries marks the shift from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic. In the Lower Palaeolithic, tools like handaxes and choppers were typically made by flaking the core itself. However, during the Middle Palaeolithic, the technological focus shifted toward using the flakes struck off from a prepared core as the primary blanks for tool production. This transition allowed for greater tool specialization and a more economical use of raw materials, representing a significant evolutionary step in lithic technology.

115. (C) Its broad, transverse (straight) cutting edge.

A cleaver is a distinctive tool type of the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian industry. It is distinguished from the handaxe by its broad, transverse, and straight cutting edge at one end, which resembles the edge of a modern axe or cleaver. While handaxes are often pointed, cleavers were designed for heavy-duty cutting and butchering tasks. These bifacial tools were manufactured from large stone flakes or nodules and are found alongside handaxes in many Acheulian assemblages across the Indian subcontinent and other parts of the world.

116. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Several key regions in India are central to Palaeolithic research. The Sivalik hills are the primary location for the Sohan industry. The Belan Valley is renowned for its classic stratified sequence of Stone Age cultures. Attirampakkam is an ancient and significant Palaeolithic site located in the Kortlayar Valley. Finally, the 16R sand dune provides crucial archaeological evidence within the Didwana region of Rajasthan. These associations help researchers correlate stone tool technologies with specific geographical features and environmental contexts across the entire Indian subcontinent.

117. (C) Long and stratified sequence of Palaeolithic industries.

The significance of the Belan and Son valley sites lies in their preservation of a long and stratified sequence of Palaeolithic industries. Within the alluvial deposits of these rivers, archaeologists have discovered layers of stone tools that span the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic periods, often extending into later cultural phases. This continuous record allows researchers to study the chronological progression of technology and human adaptation within a single geographical area. Such stratified sequences are essential for building a reliable and scientific timeline for Indian prehistory.

118. (A) It was widely distributed across major river valleys of the subcontinent.

The Acheulian industry exhibited a remarkably widespread geographical distribution across the Indian subcontinent. Evidence of this bifacial tool tradition, characterized by handaxes and cleavers, is found in numerous major river valleys, including the Narmada, Sabarmati, Son, and Godavari. Unlike the more regionally restricted Sohan industry, the Acheulian culture successfully colonized diverse ecological zones, ranging from the northern plains to the southern

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create more refined utilitarian items and artistic expressions, demonstrating an advancement in manual dexterity and craft specialization.

132. (D) Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tools.

The Sabarmati valley is a well-known archaeological region in western India, particularly for the discovery of Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tools. This river system has provided numerous sites where handaxes and cleavers have been found in stratified geological contexts. These findings indicate that early hominin populations inhabited the region, utilizing the abundant raw materials and water sources provided by the river. The Sabarmati valley sites are essential for understanding the geographical spread and environmental adaptations of the Acheulian handaxe-cleaver complex in the diverse landscapes of the subcontinent.

133. (C) Palaeolithic cultures and ancient climatic fluctuations.

The evidence from Didwana's 16R sand dune in Rajasthan provides a crucial link between Palaeolithic cultures and ancient climatic changes. The stratified layers of stone tools found within the dune reflect periods of human activity that correspond to fluctuating environmental conditions in the Thar Desert. By analyzing these archaeological remains alongside geological data, researchers can reconstruct when the region was more habitable due to increased rainfall. This site is fundamental for understanding how prehistoric populations successfully navigated and adapted to the dynamic and often challenging environments of arid western India.

134. (D) The careful preparation of a core for removing a single shaped flake.

The defining characteristic of the Levallois technique is the meticulous preparation of a stone core before a tool is produced. Instead of simply striking a nodule, the toolmaker carefully flakes the core's surface to create a specific convex shape. This preparation allows the manufacturer to pre-determine the exact size and form of the single, final flake that will be detached. This sophisticated method demonstrates advanced cognitive planning and mastery over lithic materials, marking a significant technological shift toward standardization during the Middle Palaeolithic period.

135. (A) The Middle Palaeolithic culture

Within the Indian subcontinent, the Middle Palaeolithic culture exhibits one of the most widespread geographical distributions. Evidence of this flake-based stone tool industry is found across a diverse range of eco-zones, including major river valleys, high plateaus, and even arid desert regions. This extensive spread suggests that human populations during this period were highly mobile and possessed the technological flexibility to adapt to various environmental conditions. This widespread presence makes the Middle Palaeolithic a key phase for studying human colonization and environmental adaptation across the entire subcontinent.

136. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Bone tools are relatively rare in the earlier phases of the Palaeolithic but become a significant component of the toolkit during the Upper Palaeolithic. This shift occurred because of technological innovations that allowed prehistoric humans to effectively shape and work organic materials into standardized forms. The development of specialized stone tools, like burins, facilitated the carving of bone into needles, harpoons, and points. This advancement represents a major evolutionary step, reflecting increased craftsmanship, greater efficiency in resource utilization, and the ability to produce more specialized equipment for hunting and daily life.

137. (D) Southern Deccan Plateau

The presence of Acheulian sites in the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys demonstrates the successful expansion of this Lower Palaeolithic culture into the southern Deccan Plateau. These valleys in modern-day Karnataka offered favorable habitats with reliable water sources and suitable raw materials like limestone for tool production. The high density of handaxes and cleavers found in this region indicates that early human populations effectively colonized the peninsular interior of India. These southern sites are crucial for understanding the widespread distribution

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The study of the Palaeolithic period in India primarily relies on the analysis of lithic artifacts and their geo-chronological context. Because these ancient societies left no written records, stone tools serve as the primary source of information about their technology, mobility, and adaptations. By studying these artifacts within stratified geological deposits, river terraces, or cave sediments, researchers can reconstruct the chronological sequence of different cultures. This intersection of archaeology and geology is essential for understanding the long history of human development before the advent of historical records.

126. (D) Subsistence strategies and tool-use behavior.

The transition from the heavy core tools of the Lower Palaeolithic to the lighter flake tools of the Middle Palaeolithic reflects significant shifts in subsistence strategies and behavior. This technological change suggests that human groups were adapting to new environmental challenges and developing more versatile ways to process resources. Smaller flake tools were easier to carry and could be specialized for tasks like butchery, woodworking, or skin processing. These developments indicate an evolution in how prehistoric populations interacted with their environment and managed the daily requirements for survival and resource exploitation.

127. (A) The classic sites of the Sohan industry.

The Potwar Plateau is a significant area for Palaeolithic research because it contains the classic sites of the Sohan industry. Located in the northwestern part of the subcontinent, this region's river terraces have yielded extensive assemblages of pebble-based chopper and chopping tools. These finds represent a unique Lower Palaeolithic tradition that is distinct from the Acheulian handaxe complex. The Potwar Plateau provides a vital archaeological and geological record, allowing researchers to study the diversity of early Stone Age cultures and their environmental settings in northern South Asia.

128. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

The Acheulian industry, named after its type-site in France, is one of the most widespread and long-lasting cultural traditions in prehistory, found across much of Africa, Europe, and Asia. In India, Acheulian sites are found in a variety of ecological settings, ranging from open-air river valley sites to protected rock shelters. This broad distribution and environmental diversity demonstrate the successful adaptation and flexibility of the Acheulian handaxe-cleaver complex. Both statements accurately reflect the global importance and the extensive geographical presence of this Lower Palaeolithic tradition in India.

129. (B) Stone

The term lithic is a fundamental word in prehistoric archaeology, derived from the Greek word lithos, which means stone. It is used to describe objects made of stone, most notably the tools manufactured by early humans during the various phases of the Stone Age. Lithic technology refers to the methods used to shape these stones into functional implements. Because stone is highly durable and survives for millions of years, it provides the most extensive and reliable record of human technological and cultural evolution throughout the long duration of the Palaeolithic.

130. (B) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The Upper Palaeolithic in India is characterized by several key cultural and technological markers. It features blade and burin industries and a significant increase in the use of bone tools. This period also provides the first definitive evidence of prehistoric art. Chronologically, it is correctly placed between the Middle Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic. However, the claim that the only tools used were large handaxes is false, as these are characteristic of the earlier Lower Palaeolithic. Therefore, only the first four statements are accurate descriptions of this phase.

131. (C) Engraving or working softer materials like bone, antler, or wood.

A burin is a specialized stone tool that likely served a specific functional role in prehistoric crafts. Its chisel-like working edge was ideal for engraving, carving, or grooving organic materials such as bone, antler, and wood. The emergence of the burin in the Upper Palaeolithic toolkit reflects the increasing complexity of human activities, including the manufacture of bone tools and symbolic objects. This specialized equipment allowed ancient populations to

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the development of new and more complex craft activities. A burin, with its chisel-like working edge, was specifically designed for engraving and carving harder organic materials such as bone, antler, and wood. This technological innovation suggests that prehistoric populations were increasingly involved in crafting refined utilitarian items, personal ornaments, and symbolic objects. The presence of these specialized tools reflects a significant advancement in manual skill, craft specialization, and the overall complexity of human culture and symbolic expression.

145. (C) It has yielded a continuous sequence of stone tool industries from the Lower Palaeolithic onwards.

The Belan river valley is considered a classic area for Indian prehistory because of its exceptional stratigraphic record. The valley's river deposits have preserved an almost continuous sequence of stone tool industries, ranging from the Lower Palaeolithic through the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic, and into later periods like the Mesolithic and Neolithic. This clear, unbroken cultural progression within a single geographical area allows researchers to study long-term technological evolution and human adaptation in a secure chronological context, making it a fundamental location for understanding India's ancient past.

146. (A) The systematic production of bifacial tools like handaxes and cleavers.

The most defining characteristic of the Acheulian lithic industry is the systematic and refined production of bifacial tools. The primary implements of this tradition are handaxes and cleavers, which were manufactured by flaking both sides of a stone nodule or large flake to create sharp cutting edges and specific symmetrical shapes. This sophisticated bifacial technology reflects a clear mental template and advanced manual skill. Found extensively across India and other parts of the Old World, the Acheulian industry represents a long-standing and highly successful cultural tradition of the Lower Palaeolithic period.

147. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

Prehistoric art found in natural rock shelters serves as a vital non-utilitarian record for understanding the cognitive and symbolic lives of ancient hunter-gatherer communities. These paintings and engravings provide profound insights into their daily activities, ritual practices, and environmental perceptions. Additionally, the distribution of these art sites is closely linked to the presence of suitable geological formations, such as sandstone or limestone, in regions frequented by these mobile populations. Both statements accurately reflect how rock art provides a unique window into the worldview and social dynamics of prehistoric societies.

148. (D) The region experienced wetter phases in the past that supported life.

The Palaeolithic sites associated with ancient playas in Rajasthan suggest that the now-arid Thar Desert experienced wetter climatic phases during the past. These playas, or temporary lake beds, would have held fresh water during periods of increased rainfall, creating favorable habitats for diverse flora and fauna. The presence of stone tools near these lake beds indicates that prehistoric populations inhabited the region during these greener intervals, utilizing the available water and biological resources. This archaeological evidence is crucial for reconstructing the paleo-environmental history and human occupation of western India's desert landscapes.

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149. (C) A more economical use of raw material.

The technological shift from the large core tools of the Lower Palaeolithic to the flake-based tools of the Middle Palaeolithic represents a move toward a more economical use of stone raw materials. By producing multiple specialized tools from the flakes struck off from a single prepared core, prehistoric toolmakers could maximize the utility of their lithic resources. This innovation allowed for the creation of a more diverse and efficient toolkit while reducing waste. This shift reflects an advancement in cognitive planning and a strategic approach to tool manufacture and resource management.

150. (B) 3, 2, 1

Arranging these Palaeolithic sites from west to east follows the geography of the northern and central subcontinent. The Potwar Plateau is located furthest west, in modern-day northern Pakistan. Moving eastwards, the Didwana region

and environmental adaptations of the Acheulian tradition beyond the northern river valleys.

138. (A) North-Central India

The Son valley is a major tributary of the Ganga and is of immense archaeological importance for studying the prehistory of North-Central India. Its stratified alluvial deposits have preserved a long sequence of Palaeolithic industries, providing a vital link for understanding human occupation in the central and northern parts of the subcontinent. By analyzing the stone tools and geological contexts within the Son valley, researchers can reconstruct the chronological progression of ancient cultures and the movement of prehistoric populations along these significant riverine corridors in the heart of India.

139. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Different stone tool types are primarily associated with specific Palaeolithic cultures and industries. The handaxe is a defining implement of the Acheulian tradition within the Lower Palaeolithic. Scrapers are characteristic of the Middle Palaeolithic toolkit, where they were made on flakes. The production of specialized blades is a hallmark of the Upper Palaeolithic. Additionally, the Sohan industry is a Lower Palaeolithic tradition defined by the manufacture of pebble-based choppers. These tool types help archaeologists identify and distinguish between various stages of human technological evolution across prehistory.

140. (B) The very early age established for its Acheulian and earlier levels.

The most significant aspect of the Palaeolithic evidence from Attirampakkam in the Kortlayar valley is its remarkable antiquity. Scientific dating methods have established that the Acheulian and even earlier cultural levels at this site are over one million years old. This makes Attirampakkam one of the oldest known Palaeolithic sites in the Indian subcontinent. These early dates have profoundly changed our understanding of the timing of human migration into South Asia and the long duration of early hominin occupation in the diverse landscapes of Peninsular India.

141. (B) 1, 2 and 3

The Sohan industry is an important Lower Palaeolithic tradition named after the Sohan River in the Potwar Plateau. It is characterized by simple tools manufactured from river pebbles, such as choppers and chopping tools. While it represents a major early technological tradition in the northwestern subcontinent, it is not found all over India, including Tamil Nadu. The Sohan industry remains a regionally focused tradition, whereas the Acheulian complex is more widespread. Therefore, only the first three statements correctly describe the industry's namesake, technology, and chronological position.

142. (D) Blades from prepared cores

A major focus of Upper Palaeolithic technology was the systematic and efficient production of stone blades from prepared cores. This method involved the careful preparation of a prismatic core, from which multiple thin, long, and sharp blades could be struck. This technique represented a significant advancement over earlier flaking methods, as it maximized the length of cutting edge obtained from raw materials. These blades were versatile and could be further modified into various specialized tools, reflecting the technological sophistication and refined craftsmanship of Upper Palaeolithic communities.

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143. (A) The Sohan and Acheulian industries.

The Lower Palaeolithic culture in the Indian subcontinent is broadly divided into two major technological traditions: the Sohan and the Acheulian industries. The Sohan industry is primarily found in the northwestern region and focuses on pebble tools like choppers. In contrast, the Acheulian industry is widespread across much of the subcontinent and is characterized by more complex bifacial tools such as handaxes and cleavers. These two traditions represent the earliest stages of human tool-making in India, reflecting diverse regional adaptations and technological approaches during the early Stone Age.

144. (B) The development of new craft activities, such as working bone and wood.

The appearance of specialized stone tools like burins during the Upper Palaeolithic indicates

utilized riverine environments to colonize vast and diverse landscapes, contributing to the broad geographical reach of the Acheulian tradition in South Asia.

157. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Son Valley is considered an essential area for studying the transition from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic because of its stratified archaeological sites. These locations have yielded evidence that shows a gradual shift in lithic technology from the production of bifacial Acheulian handaxes to more refined Middle Palaeolithic flake tools. This technological change represents a significant evolutionary step in human behavior and stone-working techniques. By analyzing these stratified sequences, researchers can reconstruct the long-term cultural and technological developments that occurred as prehistoric populations adapted their toolkit to meet new environmental and survival needs.

158. (D) Blade and burin technology

The principal technological innovation of the Upper Palaeolithic was the development of blade and burin technology. This phase is marked by the systematic production of long, thin, and sharp stone blades from prepared prismatic cores. Alongside these blades, toolmakers created burins, which were specialized implements with chisel-like edges designed for engraving and carving organic materials like bone and wood. These advancements allowed for more efficient use of raw stone and the creation of a diverse array of specialized equipment, reflecting the increasing manual dexterity and craft specialization of prehistoric human communities.

159. (C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

Different Palaeolithic phases in India are associated with specific raw materials and technological features. The Sohan industry primarily utilized quartzite pebbles for its chopper tools. The Acheulian tradition is characterized by handaxes and cleavers made from large quartzite boulders or nodules. The Middle Palaeolithic shifted toward producing smaller flake tools, often using fine-grained stones like chert, jasper, and agate. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic saw the increased manufacture of tools from organic materials like bone and antler. These material preferences reflect the evolving technological needs and resource utilization strategies of prehistoric populations.

160. (B) They provide a unique cluster of Acheulian sites, suggesting a specific settlement pattern.

The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys are significant because they contain a unique and dense cluster of Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian sites. This high concentration of archaeological locations suggests that the region supported a specific and potentially seasonal settlement pattern for prehistoric groups. The presence of reliable water from perennial springs and an abundant supply of quality limestone for tool manufacture made these valleys highly attractive. By studying the distribution and nature of these sites, researchers can gain valuable insights into how Acheulian hunter-gatherer communities organized their movements and utilized regional resources over time.

161. (B) 1, 2 and 3

The Acheulian industry in India is well-defined by its characteristic handaxes and cleavers and exhibits a widespread, near pan-Indian distribution. Key sites are found across major river systems, including the Narmada, Sabarmati, and Son valleys. However, the claim that the Acheulian industry is chronologically older than the Sohan industry is not universally accepted, as both represent different traditions within the Lower Palaeolithic and may show significant periods of overlap. Therefore, only the first three statements accurately describe the technological traits and geographical distribution of the Acheulian industry across the subcontinent.

162. (A) Continuous technological and adaptive evolution over a vast period.

The Palaeolithic cultural development in the Indian subcontinent is a story of continuous technological and adaptive evolution spanning hundreds of thousands of years. It began with simple pebble and bifacial tool traditions and progressed through refined flake-tool technologies to the sophisticated blade and bone implements of the later phases. This long-term sequence reflects the increasing

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is situated in the desert landscape of Rajasthan. Finally, the Belan Valley is located furthest east, in the north-central part of India. This west-to-east sequence covers a vast area where significant Stone Age discoveries have been made, reflecting the broad geographical distribution and regional diversity of prehistoric human activity across South Asia.

151. (B) Choppers and Chopping tools

The primary tools of the Sohan industry are choppers and chopping tools. This Lower Palaeolithic tradition is characterized by the manufacture of relatively simple stone implements from river pebbles found in the northwestern subcontinent. A chopper is a unifacially flaked tool with a single cutting edge, while a chopping tool is bifacially flaked to create a more robust edge. These pebble tools reflect a unique technological approach that is distinct from the handaxe-cleaver complex of the contemporary Acheulian tradition, showcasing the regional diversity of early Stone Age technology.

152. (A) Worked on both faces.

In Palaeolithic terminology, a biface refers to a stone tool that has been deliberately flaked on both its upper and lower surfaces, or faces. This manufacturing technique results in a tool with a sharp cutting edge that runs along most of its perimeter. Common examples of bifaces include handaxes and cleavers, which are characteristic of the Acheulian industry. The production of bifacial tools requires a higher level of skill and planning than unifacial tools, as the knapper must manage the symmetry and thickness of the entire stone nodule to achieve the desired form.

153. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Jwalapuram is a highly significant archaeological site in Andhra Pradesh that contains a distinct layer of volcanic ash. This ash is scientifically linked to the Toba super-eruption, which occurred about seventy-four thousand years ago. Importantly, excavations have recovered Palaeolithic stone tools from layers both above and below this ash, providing evidence of human presence and survival during this major environmental event. However, the site is not primarily known for the Sohanian industry, which is a northwestern tradition. Therefore, only the first four statements correctly describe the site's unique archaeological and geological significance.

154. (A) All of the above mentioned evidence types.

Determining the antiquity and significance of prehistoric art in India involves various types of scientific and archaeological evidence. Researchers use radiocarbon dating of pigments when possible, analyze the artistic styles and the way different paintings overlap, and examine the depiction of extinct animals or era-specific tools. Collectively, these methods provide a robust framework for dating the art and understanding its cultural context. By integrating these diverse lines of evidence, archaeologists can reconstruct the symbolic world and the technological environment of the ancient hunter-gatherer communities that created these works.

155. (D) Widespread, covering many parts of the subcontinent.

The geographical distribution of the Middle Palaeolithic culture in India is remarkably widespread, covering numerous regions across the subcontinent. Evidence of this flake-based stone tool industry has been discovered in a variety of settings, ranging from the northern plains and river valleys to the southern Deccan Plateau and the arid regions of western India. This extensive spread indicates that prehistoric populations during this period were highly mobile and successfully adapted to a wide range of ecological zones. The widespread occurrence of Middle Palaeolithic sites highlights the common technological traditions shared across much of ancient India.

156. (B) Eastern part of the Deccan Plateau.

The presence of Acheulian industries in the Krishna and Godavari valleys provides clear evidence of Palaeolithic human activity in the eastern part of the Deccan Plateau. These major river systems flow through central and southern India, offering fertile grounds with abundant resources for prehistoric groups. The discovery of handaxes and cleavers along these rivers indicates that early hominins moved into and successfully inhabited the peninsular interior. This southward expansion shows how ancient populations

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effective resource utilization by prehistoric communities.

106. (A) The core tool typology (pebble tools vs. bifaces).

The primary difference between the Sohan and Acheulian industries lies in their core tool typology. The Sohan industry is defined by the manufacture of simple choppers and chopping tools from unifacially or bifacially flaked river pebbles. In contrast, the Acheulian industry is characterized by more complex bifacial tools, specifically handaxes and cleavers, flaked from large nodules or boulders. While both belong to the Lower Palaeolithic, they represent distinct technological traditions that utilized different methods to shape their primary heavy-duty stone implements.

107. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The discovery of Palaeolithic tools near ancient playa lakes in Rajasthan is highly significant for understanding prehistoric environments. It provides evidence that the now-arid Thar Desert experienced wetter climatic phases in the past, which could sustain human populations. These ancient lake beds, or playas, would have served as reliable sources of water and attracted diverse fauna, making them ideal locations for hunter-gatherers. The archaeological remains at these sites allow researchers to reconstruct the relationship between ancient climatic fluctuations and the movement of early humans.

108. (A) Refined prepared core technique for standardized flakes.

A characteristic feature of Middle Palaeolithic lithic technology is the use of refined prepared core techniques, such as the Levallois method. This technology allowed toolmakers to systematically shape a stone core to produce flakes of a predetermined size and form. This innovation led to greater standardization and versatility in the toolkit, which was increasingly dominated by various specialized flake tools like scrapers and points. This shift represents a significant cognitive and technological advancement over the simpler core-reduction methods used during the earlier Lower Palaeolithic phase.

109. (C) Environment and subsistence activities of the people.

The themes depicted in Indian prehistoric art primarily focus on the environment and the daily subsistence activities of ancient hunter-gatherer communities. Rock paintings and engravings frequently feature various wild animals, lively hunting scenes, and groups engaged in gathering activities. These artworks reflect the close relationship between prehistoric people and their natural surroundings. By documenting their world through symbolic expression, these ancient artists provided a valuable record of the fauna, social interactions, and survival strategies that characterized life during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods.

110. (D) An area with a dense concentration of Acheulian sites.

The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka are prime examples of regions with a dense concentration of Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian sites. Intensive archaeological investigations in these valleys have revealed numerous locations where early humans repeatedly camped and manufactured tools. The abundance of these sites is attributed to favorable environmental factors, including the presence of perennial springs and locally available limestone for tool production. These valleys provide essential insights into the settlement patterns and resource exploitation strategies of Acheulian groups in South India.

111. (D) All of the above

Numerous sites across India provide vital information about Palaeolithic cultural developments. The Sohan Valley is known for its early pebble tools, while the Belan and Son valleys offer continuous cultural sequences. Attirampakkam in Tamil Nadu has yielded very early Lower Palaeolithic evidence, and Jwalapuram is famous for its association with Toba volcanic ash. Additionally, Didwana provides evidence of human activity in an arid zone. Together, these diverse sites offer a comprehensive understanding of the technological, environmental, and chronological aspects of Indian prehistory.

112. (B) Upper Palaeolithic

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cognitive complexity, manual skill, and strategic adaptability of prehistoric humans. By evolving their stone tool technology and subsistence strategies, these ancient populations successfully inhabited diverse and changing environments across the vast landscapes of the subcontinent.

163. (C) Produce flakes of a predetermined shape and size.

The primary goal of the Levallois technique was to achieve greater control over the tool-making process. By meticulously preparing the surface of a stone core, the knapper could ensure that the final flake removed would have a predetermined shape and size. This innovation allowed for the production of standardized tools, such as points and scrapers, while maximizing the utility of the raw material. This technique represents a major cognitive leap, as it requires the manufacturer to visualize and plan the final product before the actual tool is even detached from the core.

164. (D) Flake tools

In contrast to the Lower Palaeolithic emphasis on heavy core tools like handaxes and choppers, the Middle Palaeolithic is defined by its focus on flake tools. During this period, technological developments allowed toolmakers to produce a diverse array of specialized implements from the flakes struck off from prepared cores. These flake-based tools, including scrapers, points, and borers, were lighter, more versatile, and easier to handle. This shift toward a more refined and specialized toolkit indicates a significant change in human behavior, technological efficiency, and the way prehistoric communities interacted with their environment.

165. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is a valid interpretation of Statement I.

The Upper Palaeolithic period witnessed a notable proliferation of art and symbolic objects, marking a significant cultural shift. This development is widely interpreted as evidence of growing complexity in human cognition and social communication. The ability to create art, personal ornaments, and other symbolic items suggests that ancient communities possessed a developed capacity for abstract thought and shared meaning. These symbolic expressions were likely used to reinforce social bonds and communicate information across groups, reflecting an advancement in the social and mental lives of prehistoric humans beyond the requirements of simple survival.

166. (B) Sohan and other rivers of the Potwar Plateau.

The sites of the Sohan industry are primarily located on the ancient river terraces formed by the Sohan River and other associated river systems in the Potwar Plateau. This northwestern region, situated in modern-day Pakistan, provided abundant river pebbles that prehistoric populations used as raw material for their characteristic chopper and chopping tools. As these rivers evolved geologically, they created a series of terraces that preserved these stone tool assemblages in stratified contexts. These findings allow archaeologists to study the early Lower Palaeolithic pebble-tool tradition within its specific geological and environmental setting.

167. (C) Handaxes

The Upper Palaeolithic culture is associated with several technological and symbolic advancements, including the production of refined stone blade tools, the use of organic materials for bone implements, and the earliest definitive expressions of prehistoric art. However, handaxes are not characteristic of this period. Handaxes are the defining bifacial tools of the much earlier Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian industry. By the Upper Palaeolithic, stone tool technology had shifted away from these heavy core tools toward lighter and more specialized implements, reflecting an evolution in technology and human behavior over vast periods of time.

168. (B) Palaeoenvironment of the Thar Desert region.

The archaeological and geological record from the sand dunes of Didwana is crucial for reconstructing the palaeoenvironment of the Thar Desert. The stratified layers within these dunes, particularly site 16R, preserve stone tools alongside sedimentological data that correspond to different climatic phases in the past. By analyzing these records, researchers can determine when the region was more humid and could sustain human populations. This information is essential for understanding the relationship between long-term climatic

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fluctuations and prehistoric human occupation in one of the world's most dynamic and challenging desert landscapes.

169. (C) Lower, Middle, Upper

The chronological order of the Palaeolithic cultures in India follows a sequence of three major phases: Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic. The Lower Palaeolithic represents the earliest stage, dominated by pebble and bifacial tool traditions. This was followed by the Middle Palaeolithic, which saw an emphasis on flake tools and prepared core techniques. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic emerged, characterized by blade and bone technologies and early symbolic art. This progression reflects the long-term technological and cultural evolution of prehistoric human communities over hundreds of thousands of years across the Indian subcontinent.

170. (A) Cleaver

The Middle Palaeolithic toolkit is characterized by specialized flake-based tools, including various types of scrapers, points, and borers. These light-duty implements were refined for tasks like butchery, hide working, and carving. However, a cleaver is not part of this period's characteristic assemblage. Cleavers are heavy-duty bifacial core tools that, along with handaxes, are the hallmark implements of the much earlier Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tradition. During the Middle Palaeolithic, technological focus shifted away from these large bifaces toward more specialized and versatile tools produced from flakes struck from prepared stone cores.

171. (B) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Major Palaeolithic traditions in India are defined by specific toolkits and geographical patterns. The Sohan industry features pebble tools, while the Acheulian tradition is known for handaxes and cleavers. The Middle Palaeolithic used flake tools and prepared cores, and the Upper Palaeolithic introduced blade and bone implements. These traditions represent different chronological phases rather than being entirely contemporary and found in identical locations. While some overlap occurred, they generally followed an evolutionary sequence. Therefore, only the first four statements correctly describe the essential technological and cultural characteristics of each Palaeolithic phase.

172. (B) The great age or ancient origin of the art.

When applied to prehistoric art, the term antiquity refers to the great age or ancient origin of these symbolic expressions. Establishing the antiquity of rock paintings and engravings involves determining how far back in time these artworks were created. In the Indian context, researchers use various methods, including stylistic analysis and stratigraphic associations, to trace the origins of this art back to the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. Understanding the antiquity of these works is essential for reconstructing the long history of human symbolic communication, aesthetic expression, and cognitive development.

173. (C) The presence of abundant raw material and water.

The spread of Acheulian industries into river valleys like the Sabarmati was likely facilitated by the availability of essential environmental resources. These valleys offered a reliable supply of fresh water and an abundance of suitable raw materials, particularly quartzite boulders and nodules, which were necessary for manufacturing handaxes and cleavers. Additionally, riverine corridors provided favorable habitats for diverse flora and fauna, supporting the subsistence needs of prehistoric hunter-gatherers. These favorable ecological conditions made river valleys ideal settings for long-term human occupation and the expansion of Lower Palaeolithic populations across the subcontinent.

174. (D) Producing long, slender blades.

A key difference between Upper Palaeolithic and Middle Palaeolithic technology is the Upper Palaeolithic's emphasis on producing long, slender blades. While the Middle Palaeolithic focused on flake tools, the Upper Palaeolithic introduced the systematic and standardized manufacture of blades from prepared prismatic cores. These blades provided more sharp cutting edge from a given amount of raw material and could be modified into various specialized implements like burins. This shift toward blade technology represents an advancement in manual dexterity, more efficient resource utilization, and

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a higher degree of tool specialization compared to earlier stone-working traditions.

175. (A) Attirampakkam

The Kortlayar river valley in Tamil Nadu is famous in Palaeolithic studies for the site of Attirampakkam. This location is one of the most significant archaeological sites in India due to its remarkable antiquity and stratified sequence of stone tool industries. Excavations have revealed very early Acheulian assemblages, with some levels dated back more than one million years. These discoveries have profoundly impacted our understanding of the timing of human migration into South Asia and the longevity of early hominin occupation, making Attirampakkam a pivotal site for studying global human prehistory.

176. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

Various concepts and techniques are fundamental to the study of lithic technology and prehistoric chronology. Geo-chronology involves dating archaeological materials based on their geological strata. The Levallois technique is a specific method of prepared core reduction to produce standardized flakes. A biface, such as a handaxe, is a stone tool worked on both its faces to create sharp edges. Finally, a blade is defined as a stone flake that is at least twice as long as it is wide. These definitions help archaeologists systematically describe and date ancient stone tool industries.

177. (B) A long sequence of different Palaeolithic cultures in a stratified context.

The evidence from the Belan and Son valleys is critical because it preserves a long sequence of different Palaeolithic cultures within a clear, stratified context. The alluvial deposits in these valleys have buried and protected stone tool assemblages from the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic phases in chronological order. This stratigraphic record allows researchers to study the evolution of human technology and adaptation within a single geographical area over hundreds of thousands of years. Such sequences are essential for building a reliable and scientific timeline of human prehistory in the Indian subcontinent.

178. (A) That creating art was an integral part of the life of many hunter-gatherer groups.

The widespread distribution of prehistoric rock art in shelters across India suggests that creating art was an integral part of the lives of many ancient hunter-gatherer communities. Paintings and engravings found in diverse regions, from central India to the Deccan, reflect a common tradition of symbolic expression. This suggests that prehistoric groups across the subcontinent used art as a means of communication, record-keeping, and ritual practice. The pervasiveness of this artistic tradition indicates that symbolic behavior and aesthetic expression were central to the social and cultural identity of ancient mobile populations.

179. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Acheulian industry exhibits a remarkable consistency in its primary tool forms, particularly handaxes and cleavers, over vast distances and long time periods. This high degree of uniformity suggests the existence of a strong cultural tradition and the systematic transmission of tool-making knowledge between generations of prehistoric hominins. To maintain such standardized designs across diverse environments, ancient communities must have possessed effective ways of communicating and sharing technological skills. This cultural persistence highlights the stability and success of the Acheulian tradition as a fundamental adaptive strategy during the Lower Palaeolithic phase.

180. (D) The Levallois technique.

The best example of a prepared core technique is the Levallois method. This sophisticated stone-working technique involves the meticulous preparation of a core's surface to control the exact size and shape of the flake tool before it is detached. Unlike simpler flaking methods where the result is less predictable, the Levallois technique requires advanced planning and a clear mental template of the desired final product. This technological innovation, characteristic of the Middle Palaeolithic, represents a major cognitive and manual advancement in the evolution of stone tool manufacturing by prehistoric human populations.

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production was focused on large implements like handaxes and choppers made directly from the core. In contrast, the Middle Palaeolithic saw an emphasis on producing a variety of specialized tools, such as scrapers and points, from the smaller flakes struck off from prepared cores. This shift marks a significant advancement in manual skill, tool specialization, and the overall efficiency of stone raw material utilization.

218. (A) Paintings and engravings in rock shelters and caves.

The study of prehistoric art in the Indian context primarily involves the analysis of paintings and engravings found in natural rock shelters and caves. These ancient artworks, which date back to the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, depict diverse subjects such as wildlife, hunting scenes, and social activities. Because these artworks are found in natural geological features frequented by early hunter-gatherers, they provide a valuable non-utilitarian record of their cognitive and symbolic lives. Analyzing these paintings allows researchers to reconstruct the environmental perceptions, symbolic beliefs, and cultural practices of prehistoric communities across the Indian subcontinent.

219. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

Each Palaeolithic culture in India is associated with specific regional sites and technological features. The Sohan industry is primarily linked to pebble tools from the Potwar Plateau. The Acheulian tradition is characterized by handaxes and cleavers found in regions like the Narmada Valley. Middle Palaeolithic flake-scrapers are widely distributed across various parts of the subcontinent. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic is marked by specialized blade and bone point industries found at sites in the Belan Valley. These pairings help archaeologists identify the chronological progression and regional variations of Stone Age cultures throughout the diverse landscapes of India.

220. (D) North-central India

The Belan and Son valleys are located in the north-central part of India, flowing through parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. These adjacent river valleys are of immense archaeological importance as they preserve clear and stratified sequences of Stone Age cultures within their alluvial deposits. The geographical location of these valleys made them vital corridors for prehistoric populations moving across the northern plains and central hills. The discoveries made in these regions have provided a fundamental scientific framework for understanding the long-term history of human technology and environmental adaptation in the heart of the Indian subcontinent.

221. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The progression of lithic technology in India shows a clear sequence of developments. The Lower Palaeolithic was indeed dominated by core tools, while the Middle Palaeolithic saw the rise of flake tools produced by prepared core methods. The Upper Palaeolithic further perfected blade production and introduced diverse bone tools. These technological shifts represent significant advancements in human cognition, strategy, and adaptation to environmental challenges over vast time periods. Together, these statements accurately reflect the increasing complexity and efficiency of stone tool manufacture throughout the long duration of the Palaeolithic era in the Indian subcontinent.

222. (D) Lower Palaeolithic

The term Acheulian is an archaeological designation used to describe a specific stone tool industry within the Lower Palaeolithic phase. It is characterized by the systematic production of bifacial core tools, most notably handaxes and cleavers. This tradition represents one of the longest-lasting and most widespread cultural complexes in human prehistory, found across much of the Old World, including India. The Acheulian industry reflects the early occupation of the subcontinent by hominins who shared a common technological tradition of large Core-reduction, utilized for a variety of survival and processing tasks throughout the early Stone Age.

223. (A) The production of blades and burins

The primary characteristic of Upper Palaeolithic tool technology is the systematic and standardized production of stone blades and specialized implements called burins. During this phase, prehistoric knappers moved away from earlier flake-based methods to produce long, thin, and

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sides of a stone nodule or large flake to create sharp cutting edges and symmetrical forms. Handaxes are typically pear-shaped or oval and taper to a point, while cleavers feature a broad, transverse straight cutting edge. These sophisticated tools were versatile and used for a wide range of activities, including butchering large game and woodworking. Their widespread distribution signifies a highly successful technological tradition during the Lower Palaeolithic period in India.

188. (B) The tool kit is dominated by various types of tools made on flakes.

The Middle Palaeolithic period is characterized by a significant technological shift toward a toolkit dominated by various specialized implements made on stone flakes. During this phase, toolmakers increasingly used flakes struck from prepared cores to create scrapers, points, and borers. This focus on flake tools allowed for a more economical use of raw materials and the development of more versatile equipment for tasks like hide processing and woodworking. This shift marks an evolutionary step away from the heavy-duty core tools of the Lower Palaeolithic toward a more refined and specialized stone technology.

189. (C) The Palaeolithic period

The Palaeolithic period, or the Old Stone Age, is primarily defined by the use of stone tool technology as the central feature of human culture. This era spans millions of years and is divided into the Lower, Middle, and Upper phases based on changes in stone-working techniques. From simple pebble tools to sophisticated bifacial handaxes and later blade and flake industries, stone remained the primary material for human survival and adaptation. Unlike the later Bronze and Iron Ages, the Palaeolithic reflects a stage of development entirely dependent on stone for butchery, woodworking, and hunting.

190. (D) The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys

The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka represent a key site cluster for the Acheulian culture in the southern Deccan Plateau. These valleys are renowned for their high density of Lower Palaeolithic archaeological sites, where numerous handaxes and cleavers have been found. The region provided favorable environmental conditions, including perennial springs and locally available limestone for tool production. These sites offer essential insights into the settlement patterns, resource exploitation, and mobility of early hominin populations in Peninsular India, making them fundamental for studying the widespread distribution of the Acheulian tradition.

191. (A) 1, 2, and 3

Different tool types characterize the various phases of the Stone Age. Handaxes, cleavers, and choppers are the primary and most characteristic tools of the Lower Palaeolithic cultures, including both the Sohan and Acheulian traditions. While scrapers are found in the Lower Palaeolithic, they become the dominant tool type during the Middle Palaeolithic. Similarly, blades are hallmark implements of the much later Upper Palaeolithic period. Therefore, only handaxes, cleavers, and choppers are accurately considered the most defining features of the early Stone Age cultures in the Indian subcontinent.

192. (B) The symbolic and cognitive world of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic peoples.

The antiquity and significance of prehistoric art in India are studied primarily to gain insights into the symbolic and cognitive world of ancient peoples. Rock paintings and engravings found in natural shelters provide non-utilitarian evidence of the beliefs, rituals, and aesthetic perceptions of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities. By analyzing these artistic expressions, researchers can understand aspects of social organization, environmental knowledge, and symbolic communication that are not preserved in the stone tool record. These artworks reflect the complex mental lives and evolving social structures of prehistoric human groups across the subcontinent.

193. (B) The shape and size of the flake to be removed is predetermined.

The Levallois technique involves a sophisticated process of preparing a stone core so that the size and shape of the flake tool to be removed are predetermined. This method requires the knapper to meticulously flake the surface of the core to create a specific convex form before

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the final blow is delivered. This preparation allows the manufacturer to control the result, producing a standardized and efficient tool like a point or scraper. This innovation represents a major cognitive advancement, as it demonstrates advanced mental planning and deliberate control over the manufacturing process of stone implements.

194. (A) Upper Palaeolithic

The Upper Palaeolithic is the specific Palaeolithic culture in India known for its advanced blade and bone implement industries. During this phase, prehistoric toolmakers perfected the systematic production of thin, sharp stone blades from prepared prismatic cores. Alongside these stone tools, they also utilized animal bone, antler, and ivory to manufacture specialized equipment like needles, points, and harpoons. These technological developments, combined with the earliest expressions of symbolic art, distinguish the Upper Palaeolithic from earlier stone-working traditions and reflect the increasing complexity and efficiency of human cultural and technological evolution.

195. (C) Andhra Pradesh

Jwalapuram is a highly significant Palaeolithic site located in the Jurreru Valley of the modern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The site is internationally recognized for its stratigraphic sequence that includes a thick layer of volcanic ash from the Toba super-eruption. This geological marker allows archaeologists to study human occupation and survival across a major environmental disaster. The discovery of stone tools both below and above this ash layer at Jwalapuram has provided critical evidence for cultural continuity and the long-term resilience of prehistoric human populations in the southern part of the subcontinent.

196. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Belan and Son valleys are of immense importance in Indian prehistory because they contain exceptional stratigraphic records. These neighboring river valleys have preserved an almost continuous and clear sequence of Stone Age cultures, ranging from the Lower Palaeolithic to later periods. Within their alluvial deposits, layers of stone tools are found in a well-defined chronological order, set within a datable geo-chronological framework. This allows researchers to study long-term technological changes and human adaptations within a single region, making these valleys fundamental for establishing a scientific timeline for the prehistoric subcontinent.

197. (C) Rajasthan

Rajasthan is specifically associated with Palaeolithic sites found in the context of ancient playas, or temporary lake beds. In the arid Thar Desert region, these playas served as vital water sources for prehistoric populations during wetter climatic phases in the past. Archaeological sites near these ancient lakes, such as those at Didwana, have yielded significant stone tool assemblages and geological evidence. These findings allow researchers to correlate human occupation with environmental changes and reconstruct how Palaeolithic groups navigated and utilized the desert landscapes of western India throughout various phases of the Stone Age.

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198. (B) A shift from flake tools to blade tools.

The transition from the Middle Palaeolithic to the Upper Palaeolithic is marked by a significant shift in lithic technology. During the Middle Palaeolithic, the primary focus was on producing varied tools from flakes struck from prepared cores. However, the Upper Palaeolithic saw the emergence of a more sophisticated method focused on the systematic production of long, thin, and parallel-sided stone blades. This shift allowed for greater efficiency in raw material use and the creation of more specialized implements. This technological transition reflects the increasing craftsmanship and cognitive complexity of prehistoric human populations across the Indian subcontinent.

199. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

Several key Palaeolithic regions in India are associated with specific cultural traditions or geographical features. The Potwar Plateau is the primary location for the northwestern Sohan industry. Didwana in Rajasthan provides essential evidence of Palaeolithic human activity within an arid zone context. The Hunsgi Valley in Karnataka is renowned for its dense cluster

of Acheulian sites, reflecting a significant concentration of Lower Palaeolithic populations. Finally, Attirampakkam in Tamil Nadu is an ancient and crucial Lower Palaeolithic site. These associations help archaeologists correlate stone tool technologies with specific regional and environmental settings across India.

200. (A) A Lower Palaeolithic pebble-tool industry from the Sivaliks.

The term Sohan refers to a Lower Palaeolithic pebble-tool industry named after the Sohan River in the Sivalik hills and Potwar Plateau. This northwestern tradition is primarily characterized by the manufacture of simple chopper and chopping tools from river pebbles. It represents one of the earliest technological developments in the subcontinent and is distinct from the widespread Acheulian handaxe-cleaver complex. The Sohan industry reflects a regional adaptation to the abundant lithic resources found in the riverine environments of the northern plains and foothills, making it a foundational part of South Asian prehistory.

201. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The Middle Palaeolithic culture is defined by several key technological and geographical characteristics. It is chronologically positioned between the Lower and Upper Palaeolithic phases and is marked by the production of tools that are generally lighter and smaller than those of the earlier periods. A significant technological innovation of this phase was the systematic use of the prepared core technique to create various flake tools. Furthermore, this culture exhibits a remarkably widespread geographical distribution across the entire Indian subcontinent, indicating the successful expansion and adaptation of human populations during this era.

202. (A) Acheulian

The presence of handaxes and cleavers in the Narmada valley provides clear evidence of the Acheulian culture. These bifacial stone tools are the hallmark implements of the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tradition. The Narmada valley in central India has yielded vast quantities of these tools within its stratified alluvial deposits, showing that the region was extensively occupied by prehistoric hominins who shared this common technological tradition. The discovery of these assemblages alongside fossilized remains makes the Narmada valley one of the most important areas for studying the early Stone Age in the subcontinent.

203. (D) The impact of a major volcanic event on a Palaeolithic landscape and its population.

The primary significance of Jwalapuram in Andhra Pradesh lies in its potential for studying the impact of a major volcanic event on a Palaeolithic landscape. The site contains a layer of ash from the Toba super-eruption that occurred approximately seventy-four thousand years ago. The discovery of stone tools both below and above this ash layer provides a unique opportunity to examine how prehistoric humans responded to and survived a global environmental catastrophe. This site offers rare insights into human resilience and the continuity of cultural traditions during a period of massive environmental and climatic change.

204. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

The Upper Palaeolithic toolkit represents a significant advancement in efficiency compared to earlier periods because of its specialized manufacturing techniques. The development of blade-core technology allowed prehistoric humans to produce a large number of standardized, thin, and sharp stone blanks from a single core. This method maximized the total length of cutting edge obtained from a specific amount of raw stone material, resulting in less waste. Both statements accurately reflect how these technological innovations led to greater efficiency in raw material utilization and a more refined toolkit for Upper Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer communities.

205. (C) France

The Acheulian industry takes its name from the type-site of Saint-Acheul, which is located in northern France. This widespread Lower Palaeolithic tradition, characterized by the handaxe-cleaver complex, was first systematically described and identified at this French location in the nineteenth century. Although the name is derived from a European site, the Acheulian

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181. (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The distribution of Palaeolithic sites in India is extensive across several major river valleys. Acheulian sites are well-documented in the Narmada and Sabarmati valleys in central and western India. The Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys in Karnataka contain dense clusters of these Lower Palaeolithic sites. Additionally, the Krishna and Godavari valleys provide clear evidence of the Acheulian culture in South India, while the Kortlayar valley is home to the ancient site of Attirampakkam. Together, these statements accurately reflect the widespread geographical presence of Acheulian populations across the subcontinent's diverse landscapes.

182. (B) Chopper

A unifacial pebble tool characterized by a broad, transverse cutting edge is best described as a chopper. This tool type is a defining feature of the Lower Palaeolithic Sohan industry. Choppers were manufactured by flaking one surface of a river pebble to create a sharp edge while leaving the other side naturally rounded, making it easy to hold in the hand. These relatively simple stone implements were versatile and used for basic butchery and processing tasks, representing some of the earliest technological adaptations of prehistoric humans in the northwestern subcontinent.

183. (D) Needles, harpoons, and points

The introduction of bone as a raw material for tool manufacture during the Upper Palaeolithic allowed for the creation of several new and specialized types of implements. These include bone needles used for sewing tailored clothing, harpoons for fishing or hunting aquatic resources, and refined bone points for projectiles. These organic materials were more flexible and easier to shape into fine, sharp forms than stone. The emergence of these specialized tools reflects a significant advancement in craftsmanship and technology, enabling Upper Palaeolithic populations to exploit a wider range of resources more effectively.

184. (A) Sohan

The Palaeolithic archaeological record of the Potwar Plateau is primarily associated with the Sohan industry. Located in the northwestern part of the subcontinent, this region's river terraces provided abundant pebbles that early humans used to manufacture their characteristic chopper and chopping tools. This pebble-tool tradition is distinct from the Acheulian handaxe-cleaver complex found in other parts of India. The Sohan industry represents a significant regional adaptation during the Lower Palaeolithic, and its discovery in the Potwar Plateau remains a fundamental part of Indian and Pakistani prehistoric research.

185. (D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

The Son valley is not a tributary of the Narmada; instead, it is a major southern tributary of the Ganga river system. However, the Son valley is of immense archaeological significance as it provides a long and stratified sequence of Palaeolithic cultures, much like the neighboring Belan valley. These stratified deposits have preserved stone tools from the Lower, Middle, and Upper Palaeolithic periods, allowing researchers to study the chronological progression of ancient cultures. Therefore, while the geological connection is different, the archaeological value of the Son valley remains highly significant.

186. (A) Place the stone tool cultures in a secure chronological and environmental framework.

The main purpose of studying geo-chronology at significant prehistoric locations like Didwana and the Sivaliks is to place Stone Age cultures within a scientific timeline. By analyzing geological features, stratified sediments, and fossil associations, researchers can determine the age and environmental context of the stone tools found at these sites. This allows for a deeper understanding of when different Palaeolithic phases occurred and what the climate was like during human occupation. Establishing this geo-chronological framework is essential for reconstructing the long-term history of human evolution and environmental adaptation across the subcontinent.

187. (D) Handaxes and cleavers

The defining tool types of the Acheulian industry are handaxes and cleavers. These bifacial implements were manufactured by flaking both

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pebble-tool complex, characterized by choppers and chopping tools, dates back hundreds of thousands of years. Establishing the antiquity of this industry is essential for reconstructing the chronological sequence of early human activity and understanding the long history of prehistoric cultural development in the Indian subcontinent.

212. (D) Successfully colonized and adapted to the environments of the Deccan Plateau.

The spread of the Acheulian industry into major river valleys like the Krishna and Godavari shows that Palaeolithic humans successfully colonized and adapted to the environments of the Deccan Plateau. These major river systems in Peninsular India provided reliable water sources and abundant raw materials for bifacial stone tool production. The presence of handaxes and cleavers across these southern landscapes indicates that early hominin populations were not restricted to the north but were highly mobile and capable of exploiting diverse ecological zones. This widespread distribution reflects the successful expansion and persistence of Acheulian traditions throughout the subcontinent.

213. (C) The prepared core technique

The most significant technological leap of the Middle Palaeolithic was the mastery of the prepared core technique, such as the Levallois method. This innovation allowed prehistoric toolmakers to systematically shape a stone nodule to pre-determine the exact size and form of the flake tool to be removed. This represents a major advancement in cognitive planning and control over the tool-making process. By using this method, human groups could produce a more standardized and versatile toolkit, including scrapers and points, reflecting an increased efficiency and sophistication in stone technology during this transitional phase of the Stone Age.

214. (B) Predominance of chopper-chopping tools

The Upper Palaeolithic culture is distinguished by several technological and symbolic innovations, including the systematic production of stone blades, the significant use of bone for tools, and the earliest definitive expressions of prehistoric art. However, a predominance of chopper-chopping tools is not a feature of this period. These pebble-based tools are characteristic of the much earlier Lower Palaeolithic Sohan industry. By the Upper Palaeolithic, technological focus had shifted far beyond these simple implements toward more refined and specialized stone and organic tools, reflecting the long-term evolution of human skill and cognitive ability across the subcontinent.

215. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Sivalik hills region is fundamental for understanding the early Stone Age in the subcontinent due to its unique geological record. This region contains datable geological deposits, particularly stratified river terraces, which have yielded Sohan industry stone tools in association with fossils. These geological formations provide a clear chronological framework, allowing researchers to date the pebble-tool tradition and correlate human occupation with environmental changes. Therefore, both the assertion and reason are true, as the presence of datable strata in the Sivaliks is essential for establishing the scientific chronology of early Palaeolithic cultures in India and Pakistan.

216. (A) Human occupation during wetter climatic phases in an otherwise arid region.

The sites associated with playas in Rajasthan provide critical evidence for human occupation during wetter climatic phases in an otherwise arid region. In the now-desert landscape of the Thar, these temporary lake beds would have held fresh water during periods of increased rainfall, attracting both human populations and diverse wildlife. The presence of Palaeolithic tools near these ancient lakes indicates that prehistoric groups utilized these greener intervals to inhabit the region. These findings are essential for reconstructing the palaeo-environmental history and understanding how early humans adapted their subsistence strategies and movements to fluctuating climatic conditions in western India.

217. (A) From core-tool dominated industries to flake-tool dominated industries.

The transition from the Lower to the Middle Palaeolithic is best characterized by a major shift in lithic technology from core-tool dominated industries to flake-tool dominated industries. During the earlier Lower Palaeolithic, stone tool

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tradition is a near-global phenomenon found across Africa, Western Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. This shared technological complex reflects one of the most successful and long-lasting cultural traditions in human history, utilized by early hominins over vast geographic regions and time.

206. (D) Burin

A burin is a characteristic stone tool of the Upper Palaeolithic period, specifically designed for engraving harder organic materials. It features a chisel-like working edge created by a specialized flaking technique. This design made it an ideal tool for carving and grooving bone, antler, ivory, and wood. The emergence of the burin reflects the increasing craft specialization and technological ingenuity of Upper Palaeolithic populations. This tool was essential for manufacturing bone implements and symbolic objects, marking a major advancement in the manual dexterity and symbolic behavior of prehistoric human communities during this phase.

207. (A) Karnataka

The Palaeolithic sites within the Hunsgi and Baichabal valleys are located in the Gulbarga district of the modern-day state of Karnataka. These valleys are internationally renowned for their high density of Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian archaeological sites. Research in this region has revealed many camp-sites where early humans manufactured bifacial stone tools, utilizing the locally available limestone and perennial springs. These sites provide essential information about the seasonal settlement patterns and resource utilization strategies of prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups in South India, making Karnataka a critical region for understanding the early Stone Age of the subcontinent.

208. (B) Varied tools on flakes

The main focus of lithic technology during the Middle Palaeolithic was on the production of varied tools on flakes. This phase marks a significant departure from the earlier Lower Palaeolithic tradition that relied on large and heavy core tools like handaxes. During the Middle Palaeolithic, toolmakers used prepared core techniques to strike off stone flakes, which were then modified into diverse specialized implements such as scrapers, points, and borers. This shift toward a more versatile flake-based toolkit indicates an advancement in manual skill, technological efficiency, and a strategic approach to managing lithic raw materials for different tasks.

209. (C) Fauna, subsistence strategies, and belief systems of the time.

The subject matter of prehistoric art in India provides essential information about the lives of ancient people, their environment, and their worldviews. Rock paintings and engravings frequently depict various animals, hunting scenes, and gatherer activities, reflecting the subsistence strategies of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic communities. Beyond survival, these artistic expressions also suggest the existence of complex symbolic and belief systems. By documenting their relationship with the natural world and their social interactions through art, these ancient hunter-gatherers left a valuable non-utilitarian record of their cognitive development and shared cultural experiences during the Stone Age.

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210. (D) All of the above

Many key Palaeolithic sites in India are correctly matched with their specific geographical regions and modern states. The Sohan Valley is located in the Potwar Plateau, the Belan Valley flows through Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and Didwana is situated in Rajasthan. Additionally, Attirampakkam is a significant site in Tamil Nadu, and Jwalapuram is located in Andhra Pradesh. Together, these sites represent the diverse geographical and environmental contexts in which prehistoric human activity occurred across the northern, western, central, and southern parts of the subcontinent, making them fundamental for studying Indian prehistory.

211. (C) Of great age, belonging to the early part of the Palaeolithic.

When applied to the Sohan industry, the term antiquity implies that it is of great age, belonging to the early part of the Palaeolithic period. Based on geo-chronological studies of the river terraces in the northwestern subcontinent, the Sohan industry represents one of the oldest tool-making traditions in South Asia. This

sharp stone blades from prepared prismatic cores. Alongside these blades, they manufactured burins with chisel-like edges for engraving harder materials like bone and wood. This shift toward blade technology represents an advancement in manual dexterity, more efficient use of raw stone, and the development of specialized craft activities among ancient hunter-gatherer populations across the Indian subcontinent.

224. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

The Sohan industry is correctly identified as a Lower Palaeolithic cultural tradition, representing one of the earliest stages of human activity in the subcontinent. However, it is primarily characterized by simple tools manufactured from river pebbles, such as choppers and chopping tools, rather than handaxes and cleavers. Handaxes and cleavers are the hallmark bifacial tools of the contemporary Acheulian industry. While both belong to the Lower Palaeolithic, they represent distinct technological traditions with different tool typologies, highlighting the regional diversity of early Stone Age cultures in the northwestern part of India and Pakistan.

225. (C) A successful, adaptable culture spread across the subcontinent.

The geographical distribution of the Acheulian industry suggests that it was a highly successful and adaptable culture spread across much of the Indian subcontinent. Evidence of this bifacial tool tradition, characterized by handaxes and cleavers, is found in numerous diverse ecological zones, ranging from northern plains and central river valleys to the southern Deccan Plateau. This widespread presence indicates that Acheulian hominin populations were mobile and capable of adapting their stone tool technology to different landscapes and resource availabilities. The successful colonization of such a vast area highlights the technological and cultural resilience of this Lower Palaeolithic tradition.

226. (A) It could be shaped into sharp points and barbs for projectiles like harpoons.

A significant advantage of using bone as a raw material for tools during the Upper Palaeolithic was its flexibility and ease of shaping compared to stone. Bone could be crafted into sharp, fine points and barbed forms suitable for projectiles such as harpoons, which were essential for exploiting aquatic resources or hunting elusive game. This technological innovation allowed for the production of more specialized and effective equipment. The emergence of these bone implements reflects the increasing ingenuity of prehistoric populations and their ability to diversify their toolkit to more effectively exploit various resources within their environment.

227. (C) Relationship between Stone Age cultures and climatic change.

The evidence from sites like 16R at Didwana is crucial for understanding the relationship between Stone Age cultures and long-term climatic fluctuations. The stratified stone tools found within these sand dunes correspond to different geological periods, reflecting when the Thar Desert was habitable during wetter climatic phases. By analyzing these archaeological and sedimentological records together, researchers can reconstruct how prehistoric populations adapted their movements and subsistence strategies to changes in rainfall and resource availability. This information is fundamental for understanding human resilience and environmental adaptation in the dynamic landscapes of western India across hundreds of thousands of years.

228. (B) 3, 2, 1

The chronological order of these tools reflects the evolutionary sequence of the Palaeolithic in India. The handaxe is a characteristic bifacial core tool of the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian tradition. Subsequently, flake scrapers became dominant during the Middle Palaeolithic as technological focus shifted away from heavy bifaces. Finally, the burin emerged during the Upper Palaeolithic as a specialized tool for engraving bone and wood. This progression from large core tools to refined flake-based implements and specialized engraving equipment shows the increasing technological complexity, manual dexterity, and tool specialization among prehistoric human populations throughout the Stone Age.

229. (C) Light-duty flake tools

The Middle Palaeolithic tool assemblage is best described as being based on light-duty flake tools.

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During this period, prehistoric toolmakers moved away from producing large, heavy core tools like handaxes. Instead, they focused on manufacturing varied specialized implements from stone flakes struck from prepared cores. These flake-based tools, including scrapers, points, and borers, were smaller, more versatile, and easier to handle for a variety of processing tasks. This emphasis on a lighter and more refined toolkit indicates a significant technological advancement and a shift toward more specialized and efficient resource utilization strategies among ancient human communities.

230. (B) The Lower Palaeolithic in South India

The sites in the Kortlayar valley are highly significant for the study of the Lower Palaeolithic in South India. Most notably, the valley is home to the ancient site of Attirampakkam, which has yielded exceptionally early Acheulian stone tool assemblages. These discoveries have profoundly impacted our understanding of the antiquity and spread of early hominin populations beyond the northern subcontinent. By studying the stratified deposits and technological features of the tools found in this southern valley, researchers can gain essential insights into the timing, regional diversity, and environmental adaptations of the earliest human cultures in Peninsular India.

231. (A) 1, 2, 3, and 4

The distribution of Palaeolithic cultures in India is accurately described by several regional and technological associations. The Sohan industry is primarily associated with the northwestern Sivaliks, while the Acheulian tradition is widespread across major river valleys like the Narmada and Son. The Middle Palaeolithic culture is found extensively across the entire subcontinent, and Upper Palaeolithic sites are notable in regions like the Belan valley. However, the claim that the Acheulian is found only in the Kortlayar valley is incorrect, as it is widely distributed. Therefore, only the first four statements accurately reflect the geographical presence of these cultures.

232. (B) Stone

In the context of prehistoric archaeology, the term lithic in lithic technology refers specifically to stone. It is derived from the Greek word lithos and is used to describe the manufacturing processes and techniques used by early humans to shape stone into functional tools. Because stone is highly durable and survives for millions of years, these lithic artifacts provide the primary record for studying human cultural and technological evolution throughout the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods. Analyzing stone tools allows researchers to reconstruct the manual skills, cognitive abilities, and adaptive strategies of ancient human populations across prehistory.

233. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Upper Palaeolithic marks a significant milestone in human cultural evolution due to the emergence of advanced technological and symbolic behaviors. This period is characterized by important innovations, most notably the systematic production of refined blade and bone tools. Beyond utility, it also witnessed the birth of symbolic expression through the earliest forms of prehistoric art and personal adornments. These developments suggest significant advancements in human cognition, social communication, and cultural complexity. Therefore, both the assertion and reason are true, as these technological and artistic markers define the transformative nature of the Upper Palaeolithic phase in human prehistory.

234. (A) Acheulian

The Narmada, Sabarmati, Hunsgi, and Krishna are all major river valleys in India famous for their rich deposits of the Acheulian culture. These valleys have yielded vast quantities of characteristic bifacial stone tools, such as handaxes and cleavers, within their stratified alluvial deposits. The abundance of these sites across diverse geographical regions indicates that Acheulian populations successfully colonized much of the subcontinent, utilizing the reliable water and lithic resources provided by these significant riverine environments. These valley sites are fundamental for understanding the widespread distribution, environmental adaptations, and chronological sequence of the Lower Palaeolithic handaxe-cleaver tradition in India.

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235. (D) A blade is a flake at least twice as long as wide.

The primary technological difference between a blade and a flake is based on their proportions. While both are stone pieces struck off from a core, a blade is a specialized flake that is at least twice as long as it is wide and typically possesses roughly parallel lateral edges. Blades were produced through a more controlled and systematic flaking process from prepared prismatic cores. This innovation allowed for the creation of more cutting edge from a given amount of raw material and supported the manufacture of more refined and specialized tools, marking a significant advancement characteristic of the Upper Palaeolithic period.

236. (B) Stone tools and their geological context.

The study of Palaeolithic cultural developments in the Indian subcontinent primarily relies on the analysis of stone tools and their geological context. Since these ancient societies left no written records, stone artifacts serve as the main evidence for understanding their technology, craftsmanship, and behavioral changes. By examining these tools within stratified deposits, such as river terraces or cave sediments, researchers can determine their chronological sequence and environmental setting. This combination of archaeology and geology allows scientists to reconstruct the long history of human adaptation and technological evolution that occurred throughout the various phases of the Stone Age.

237. (C) Core to flake tool shift using prepared-core techniques.

A key feature that distinguishes the Middle Palaeolithic from the earlier Lower Palaeolithic is the significant technological shift from core tools to flake tools. While the Lower Palaeolithic was dominated by large implements like handaxes made directly from a core, the Middle Palaeolithic focused on producing varied specialized tools from the flakes struck off a core. This was achieved through the use of sophisticated prepared-core techniques, such as the Levallois method, which allowed for greater control over the shape and size of the final implements. This innovation represents a major cognitive and technological advancement among prehistoric human populations.

238. (C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

Prehistoric art found in natural rock shelters serves as a crucial window into the daily life, rituals, and environments of ancient hunter-gatherers, providing profound insights into their symbolic world. However, the distribution of this art is not confined to a single site in Central India. While Central India has major concentrations, prehistoric art is widespread across the subcontinent, with significant sites also found in the Deccan Plateau and other regions. This broad distribution reflects the pervasive nature of symbolic expression among prehistoric communities in many parts of India, making Statement II factually incorrect.

239. (A) A river in the Potwar Plateau region.

The term Sohan Industry is derived from the Sohan River, which is a major waterway in the Potwar Plateau region of northern Pakistan. This river's ancient terraces yielded the first significant assemblages of the pebble-based chopper and chopping tools that define this Lower Palaeolithic tradition. Because these stone tools were found in association with the geological formations of this specific valley, the industry was named after the river. The Sohan industry remains a foundational part of South Asian prehistory, representing a unique regional technological adaptation to the abundant river pebbles available in the northwestern subcontinent.

240. (D) Lower Palaeolithic

The Acheulian tradition is a major cultural complex of the Lower Palaeolithic period. It is defined by its characteristic bifacial stone tool technology, most notably the handaxe and the cleaver. This industry represents one of the earliest and longest-lasting stages of human cultural and technological evolution, found extensively throughout much of Africa, Europe, and Asia, including the Indian subcontinent. The widespread presence of the Acheulian tradition reflects the early colonization of diverse landscapes by hominin populations who shared a common method of manufacturing large,

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The provided text associates various locations across the Indian subcontinent with the widespread bifacial tool tradition. However, the region located in the northern Sivalik hills is explicitly mentioned as the primary area for the development of a different, core-based chopper industry. Consequently, this specific northern plateau is not identified in the source as a primary region for the Acheulian cultural tradition.

270. (D) The industry represented a technologically efficient and behaviorally flexible adaptation.

The broad distribution of sites across vastly different ecological zones, from lush river valleys to arid desert regions, leads to a major archaeological conclusion. This cultural tradition was highly successful because of its versatility. The ability of these prehistoric populations to thrive in diverse environments underscores a technological system that was efficient enough to meet various survival needs while remaining behaviorally adaptable.

271. (C) A predominance of tools made on flakes struck from cores.

This cultural phase is defined by a significant technological shift toward producing lighter and more versatile implements. Instead of the massive bifacial tools typical of earlier periods, makers focused on utilizing flakes detached from prepared stone cores. This method allowed for the creation of smaller, more specialized tools, marking a fundamental change in how raw materials were processed and utilized for survival.

272. (B) Scrapers, points, and borers.

The tool kit from this specific archaeological period shows increased variety and specialization. While earlier traditions relied on heavy-duty axes, this phase is characterized by a range of smaller implements manufactured on flakes. These include tools designed for scraping, piercing, and boring, which reflect a more diverse set of activities and a move toward technological refinement in the processing of organic materials.

273. (D) A more efficient use of raw materials and refined knapping methods.

The movement toward a flake-based industry indicates a major progression in lithic technology. By producing smaller tools from prepared cores, prehistoric humans could extract more utility from a single piece of stone. This shift suggests a more sophisticated understanding of fracture mechanics and the development of refined knapping techniques, which ultimately led to a more economical and effective use of available resources.

274. (A) Widespread, covering most of the Indian subcontinent.

Evidence for this cultural phase is found in a vast array of geographic contexts across India. Sites have been documented from northern river valleys and western arid zones to the southern plateau regions. This extensive distribution indicates that these populations successfully inhabited nearly every major ecological region of the subcontinent, demonstrating the widespread adoption and resilience of their flake-based stone tool technology.

275. (C) Provides a precise chronological marker for the culture.

This specific archaeological site is crucial because it contains Middle Palaeolithic tool assemblages associated with a volcanic ash deposit. This layer serves as a reliable stratigraphic anchor that dates the occupation to around 74,000 years ago. This context provides a rare opportunity to accurately date this cultural phase and observe how human populations survived the environmental impacts of a major super-eruption.

276. (A) To predetermine the shape and size of a flake before it is detached.

This sophisticated lithic reduction method focuses on a high level of control over the final product. By carefully preparing and shaping the stone core's surface beforehand, the toolmaker can decide exactly what the resulting flake will look like. This intentionality ensures that the piece removed with a single strike is immediately useful or requires only minimal secondary retouching for specific tasks.

277. (D) A faceted platform and converging dorsal scars.

Flakes produced through this advanced prepared core technique possess distinct physical markers that distinguish them from simpler lithic waste.

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the increasing ingenuity of Upper Palaeolithic communities and their ability to modify their material culture to meet complex daily needs, such as warmth and personal adornment.

247. (D) Geological events applied to archaeological contexts.

The term geo-chronology refers to the establishment of a scientific time scale for geological events, which is essentially applied to archaeological contexts to date ancient human activities. In the study of the Stone Age, researchers use geo-chronological methods to analyze stratified deposits, river terraces, and volcanic ash layers containing stone tools or fossils. This allows them to place prehistoric cultures within a secure chronological framework and relate human cultural evolution to ancient environmental and geological changes. Geo-chronology is fundamental for reconstructing the scientific timeline of human development throughout the long duration of the Palaeolithic period.

248. (A) Producing a flake of a predetermined size and shape.

The Levallois technique is a specific and sophisticated method of stone tool manufacturing aimed at producing a flake of a predetermined size and shape. This method involves the meticulous preparation of a core's surface by flaking it in a specific manner before the final blow is delivered to detach the desired tool. This preparation gives the knapper control over the resulting product, allowing for the manufacture of standardized and efficient flake tools like scrapers and points. This technique represents a major cognitive advance, showing high levels of planning and mastery over raw materials.

249. (C) Upper Palaeolithic - Blade and Bone Implements

Different Palaeolithic phases are correctly identified by their defining technologies and cultural features. The Upper Palaeolithic is definitively characterized by the systematic production of stone blades and the increased manufacture of tools from organic materials like bone. In contrast, the Sohan industry is a pebble-tool tradition, the Acheulian is defined by bifacial handaxes and cleavers, and the Middle Palaeolithic is hallmark for the Levallois or prepared-core technique. Therefore, the pairing of the Upper Palaeolithic with blade and bone implements is the only accurate match for these major cultural and technological transitions.

250. (A) Belan and Son

The comprehensive Palaeolithic cultural sequence, spanning from the Lower to the Upper Palaeolithic, is exceptionally well-preserved and studied in the adjacent Belan and Son river valleys. Located in north-central India, these valleys have clear and stratified alluvial deposits that have protected stone tool assemblages in chronological order. This stratigraphic record allows archaeologists to observe long-term technological evolution and human adaptations within a single geographical region over hundreds of thousands of years. These neighboring valleys serve as fundamental areas for establishing a scientific and reliable timeline for the prehistory of the entire Indian subcontinent.

251. (B) The Belan and Son valleys

Archaeological investigations within the north-central regions reveal that these specific river valleys serve as critical type-sites. They preserve a long and remarkably continuous cultural sequence that transitions from the Lower Palaeolithic through to the early historic periods. This stratigraphic depth allows researchers to map prehistoric cultural evolution and environmental changes across multiple distinct human developmental phases.

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252. (A) It has volcanic ash deposits that provide a precise chronological marker for cultural layers.

The presence of volcanic ash from the massive Toba super-eruption at this site creates a definitive stratigraphic layer. This geological feature serves as an absolute chronological marker, interstratified with prehistoric tool assemblages. It enables archaeologists to correlate cultural developments with a specific environmental catastrophe occurring approximately 74,000 years ago, providing clarity on hominin continuity and dispersal patterns.

253. (C) The relationship between environmental changes and cultural adaptations in arid regions.

Research at this specific sand dune location provides vital data for understanding human presence in desert landscapes. The geological record here allows for a detailed correlation between prehistoric palaeoclimatic shifts and observable changes in lithic technology. It illustrates how early hominin populations successfully adapted their tool-making strategies to cope with the fluctuating environmental conditions of western India's arid zones.

254. (D) Attirampakkam

Archaeological excavations in the Kortlayar valley have yielded significant findings that challenge earlier theories regarding prehistoric timelines. The discovery of extremely early Acheulian tool assemblages at this southern location has effectively pushed back the known chronostratigraphy for hominin presence in India. This evidence suggests that sophisticated bifacial technology was established in the subcontinent much earlier than previously researchers had estimated.

255. (C) It integrates geological data with archaeological evidence from diverse geographical contexts.

Establishing the chronological framework of the Indian Stone Age involves a multidisciplinary scientific methodology. Scholars combine geological stratigraphy and environmental markers with cultural artifacts recovered from various ecological zones. This integrated approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of human evolution, as it links specific technological shifts in tool-making with established geological sequences found across different regions of the Indian subcontinent.

256. (B) The predominance of a pebble-tool complex involving choppers and chopping tools.

The lithic technology associated with this northern industry is defined by the manufacture of heavy tools from quartzite pebbles. Flakes were struck off to create sharp edges on cobbles, resulting in unifacial or bifacial implements. This specific focus on core-based chopper and chopping tools serves as the primary technological marker, distinguishing this cultural expression from other contemporary traditions.

257. (D) The remaining core of a pebble or cobble.

During the manufacturing process within this specific lithic tradition, the primary focus remained on the parent material. Large flakes were struck from suitable quartzite cobbles or pebbles to create a cutting edge, but the essential tool itself was the modified core. This technological approach emphasizes the use of the heavy pebble body rather than relying primarily on the detached flakes.

258. (A) The boulder conglomerate beds in the Sivaliks.

The antiquity of this prehistoric industry is determined by the specific geological layers in which the artifacts are embedded. These tools are found within massive boulder conglomerate deposits, which provide a crucial stratigraphic context for dating. Analyzing these Pleistocene formations allows geologists and archaeologists to establish a reliable chronological position for the stone tool assemblages within the northern Indian landscape.

259. (C) The tool being worked on one face versus two faces.

Within this core-tool tradition, the classification of implements depends on the extent of secondary flaking applied to the pebble. A unifacial implement is worked on only one side to create a cutting edge, while a bifacial implement is flaked on both sides. This simple yet distinct morphological difference serves as the primary criterion for identifying these two fundamental tool categories.

260. (A) The relationship between the Sohanian and Acheulian traditions.

A significant focus of modern prehistoric research in the Indian subcontinent involves investigating how two major Lower Palaeolithic cultures interacted. Scientists examine potential technological overlaps and chronological intersections between the chopper-based industry of the north and the biface-dominated tradition found elsewhere. Understanding whether these groups coexisted or evolved independently remains a vital question in the study of early hominin populations.

261. (D) The systematic manufacture of large bifacial tools.

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This cultural tradition is technologically distinguished from others by its refined approach to lithic reduction. Instead of simple choppers, these early humans intentionally produced symmetrical, large bifacial implements such as hand-axes and cleavers. This process involved shaping both sides of a raw material block to create a standardized form, representing a more complex and deliberate method of manufacturing stone tools.

262. (B) The cognitive abilities related to planning and design.

The production of symmetrical bifacial implements represents a significant milestone in human mental evolution. Crafting these tools required the maker to have a clear preconceived idea of the final product before starting. This indicates advanced cognitive development, including the capacity for long-term planning, spatial reasoning, and the execution of complex sequences of actions to achieve a specific, standardized tool shape.

263. (C) Major river valleys and their terrace systems.

The geographical distribution of this widespread Lower Palaeolithic industry shows a strong preference for specific ecological niches. Extensive sites are frequently located within large riverine environments across western, central, and northern India. These river valleys provided hominin groups with reliable access to water, diverse animal resources for hunting, and plenty of raw stone materials, which facilitated their successful expansion across the subcontinent.

264. (D) Stratified contexts to study the culture's development.

These specific locations in north-central India are vital for archaeological research because they contain deep, layered deposits. Such stratified contexts allow scientists to observe how cultural practices and stone tool technologies evolved over vast periods of time. By analyzing artifacts within these successive layers, researchers can reconstruct a chronological timeline for the local development of this enduring Lower Palaeolithic tradition.

265. (A) They were highly adapted to riverine environments.

The frequent discovery of these prehistoric sites along major waterway systems offers significant insight into early human behavior. It suggests that these populations strategically occupied environments that guaranteed access to vital resources. By focusing their activities around river valleys, these hominin groups could exploit abundant water and diverse faunal populations, demonstrating a highly successful and stable adaptation to these specific ecological conditions.

266. (B) The presence of dense concentrations of Acheulian activity.

These specific locations in the Karnataka region are highly significant because they contain exceptionally large quantities of prehistoric artifacts. The high density of these stone tool assemblages suggests that these valleys served as major centers or hubs for hominin populations. The availability of limestone and seasonal water likely supported intense and repeated human activity during the Lower Palaeolithic period in India.

267. (B) The industry's expansion across the Deccan Plateau.

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The discovery of significant prehistoric occupations within these major peninsular river systems highlights the broad geographical reach of this technology. These findings confirm that the bifacial tool-making tradition was not limited to the north but was firmly established throughout the southern regions. This widespread presence demonstrates the successful movement and long-term settlement of early hominin groups across the varied Deccan landscape.

268. (A) Their capacity to survive in landscapes with variable water availability.

Finding stone tool assemblages near ancient salt lakes in western India reveals much about early human resilience. It proves that hominin populations were not restricted to perennial river systems but could navigate more challenging, arid environments. This adaptability indicates their ability to exploit fluctuating resources and survive in regions where water was scarce, demonstrating remarkable behavioral flexibility and sophisticated survival strategies.

269. (C) The Potwar Plateau.

edged implements that characterize the advanced technology of this prehistoric period.

286. (D) To be used as knives or parts of composite tools.

These specific lithic implements were created by deliberately dulling one long edge of a stone blade. This modification allowed the tool to be held comfortably in the hand or securely hafted into a handle made of wood or bone. Consequently, they functioned effectively as versatile cutting knives or as individual components within more complex, multi-part tools used for various tasks.

287. (C) The sewing of animal hides.

The presence of fine bone implements with holes for thread indicates a high level of domestic sophistication. Such tools were essential for piercing and joining together tough materials like leather or fur. This technological development strongly suggests that prehistoric populations were making fitted garments or complex shelters, providing them with better protection against environmental elements and reflecting advanced cultural and survival strategies.

288. (B) The bone tool industry.

Archaeological evidence shows that the increased production of specialized engraving tools was essential for the expansion of other technologies. These sharp, chisel-like implements allowed humans to carve, shape, and refine hard organic substances with unprecedented precision. As a result, there is a direct correlation between the frequency of these stone tools and the systematic manufacture of sophisticated harpoons, points, and needles.

289. (D) An extensive collection of bone tools.

These specific cave sites in southern India are renowned among archaeologists for their unique preservation conditions. They have yielded a large and diverse assemblage of artifacts manufactured from animal remains. This collection provides critical evidence for the sophisticated organic technology used during this period, including various points and implements that are rarely preserved in more exposed open-air sites across the subcontinent.

290. (A) The emergence of specialized hunting and fishing technologies.

The development of varied implements such as projectile points and barbed bone tools reflects a major shift in how humans acquired food. These innovations suggest that populations were moving away from generalist strategies toward more focused and efficient methods for capturing specific game and aquatic resources. This specialization allowed for better exploitation of different environments and contributed to more stable food supplies.

291. (C) Engravings on ostrich eggshell fragments.

Some of the most ancient evidence for human creativity in the Indian subcontinent consists of small, portable artifacts. Archaeologists have discovered fragments of eggshells featuring deliberate patterns and markings that date back to the final stages of the Old Stone Age. These engravings represent an early attempt at non-utilitarian communication and symbolic behavior, pre-dating the more famous large-scale cave paintings.

292. (A) The Mesolithic and subsequent periods.

While the roots of artistic expression may reach back further in time, the vast majority of documented paintings in Indian rock shelters belong to later cultural phases. Sites like Bhimbetka predominantly showcase artwork created by hunting-gathering groups during the middle phase of the Stone Age and even into historic times. These layers of art reflect the long-term, repeated use of these shelters.

293. (D) It offers insights into the subsistence and social activities of past peoples.

Prehistoric artwork serves as a vital non-material record of ancient human life. Through detailed depictions of various scenes, it provides researchers with a visual window into how past populations survived and interacted. These images illustrate complex hunting methods, the types of tools and weapons used, and aspects of community life such as group ceremonies, rituals, and family structures within these societies.

294. (B) The capacity for complex symbolic thought.

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These features include a carefully worked striking area and a specific pattern of scars on the back of the flake, resulting from the initial shaping of the core. Such characteristics are indicative of the complex procedural planning required to execute this specialized technology.

278. (B) The capacity for complex planning and abstract thought.

Adopting prepared core methods indicates a significant leap in human mental evolution. Unlike simpler technologies, this process requires the knapper to visualize a finished flake inside a raw block of stone and perform multiple preparatory steps to realize it. This ability to execute a multi-stage plan demonstrates abstract reasoning and a deep conceptual understanding of the mechanics involved in stone tool manufacture.

279. (C) It allows for the production of multiple standardized flakes from one core.

From a resource management perspective, this specialized technique is highly beneficial because it maximizes the utility of raw stone. A single, well-prepared core can be used to strike off several flakes of consistent size and shape. This standardization reduces waste and ensures a reliable supply of efficient blanks for various tools, making it a much more economical method of lithic production.

280. (D) It involves shaping the core to produce a specific flake, rather than shaping the core into the tool itself.

The fundamental difference between these two technologies lies in the ultimate goal of the knapping process. Earlier methods focused on removing flakes to turn the remaining central stone into a finished implement. In contrast, this more advanced technique treats the core as a specialized platform designed specifically to generate a series of precise flakes, which then become the primary tools used by hominins.

281. (A) The widespread production and use of blades.

This final phase of the Old Stone Age is technologically defined by a major shift toward specialized lithic production. The primary innovation was the manufacture of long, slender stone pieces with parallel sides. These implements were struck from prismatic cores, representing a significant advancement over earlier flake and core technologies and serving as the foundation for a more diverse and specialized toolkit.

282. (B) Maximized the cutting edge obtainable from a piece of raw material.

The move toward this specialized stone-working technology provided a distinct advantage in terms of resource efficiency. By striking long, thin blades from a prepared core, prehistoric toolmakers could produce a much greater total length of sharp cutting edge from the same volume of raw stone. This economy of material allowed groups to travel further or stay longer in areas where stone was scarce.

283. (B) Working hard organic materials like bone and ivory.

This specialized chisel-like tool was a critical component of the advanced toolkit during this period. It was designed with a tough, sharp edge capable of engraving and carving resistant substances. This capability allowed prehistoric humans to systematically process and shape materials such as animal bone, antler, and ivory, leading to the creation of a wide variety of sophisticated and functional organic implements.

284. (A) The emergence of a sophisticated bone tool industry.

Alongside advancements in stone-working, this period is notable for the systematic utilization of new raw materials. Humans began to regularly craft complex implements such as points, harpoons, and needles from animal remains. This industrial development signifies a major expansion in technological capability, allowing for more specialized hunting and domestic activities that were not possible with stone tools alone during previous archaeological phases.

285. (C) Fine-grained materials like chert and jasper.

Producing long, standardized blades required specific types of raw stone that could be fractured with high precision. Toolmakers during this phase sought out materials with very fine textures, such as chalcedony, jasper, or chert. These stones allowed for greater control during the knapping process, enabling the creation of the thin, sharp-

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versatile stone tools for survival and various processing tasks.

241. (A) 1, 2, 3, 4

The chronological sequence of lithic technologies in India reflects a clear evolutionary progression. It began with the simple pebble tools, or choppers, characteristic of early Lower Palaeolithic traditions like the Sohan industry. This was followed by the development of more complex bifacial handaxes within the Acheulian complex. Subsequently, the Middle Palaeolithic saw the significant innovation of the Levallois or prepared-core technique. Finally, the Upper Palaeolithic period was marked by the systematic and standardized blade-core technique. This sequence demonstrates the increasing cognitive complexity, manual skill, and technological efficiency of prehistoric humans over hundreds of thousands of years.

242. (A) Blades and Bone implements

The main technological characteristic of the Upper Palaeolithic is the proliferation of blades and bone implements. During this phase, prehistoric toolmakers perfected the systematic manufacture of thin, sharp stone blades from prepared prismatic cores, allowing for more efficient use of lithic resources. Additionally, they began significantly utilizing animal bone, antler, and ivory to craft specialized tools such as needles, harpoons, and points. These innovations, alongside the earliest definitive expressions of symbolic art, reflect the increasing manual skill and cultural complexity of human populations, distinguishing the Upper Palaeolithic from the earlier stone-working traditions of the subcontinent.

243. (C) Didwana

The evidence for Palaeolithic occupation in the arid zone of Rajasthan is best documented at the site of Didwana. Within this region, the stratified sand dune deposits, particularly at site 16R, have yielded a sequence of stone tools that correspond to different geological and climatic phases of the past. These findings provide critical information on how prehistoric populations adapted to the desert environment during wetter climatic intervals. Didwana is a fundamental location for understanding the relationship between long-term environmental fluctuations and the history of human habitation in the challenging landscapes of western India's Thar Desert.

244. (D) A wider range of processing and manufacturing tasks.

The toolkits of the Middle Palaeolithic, consisting of various scrapers, points, and borers made on flakes, are interpreted as being suitable for a wider range of processing and manufacturing tasks. Unlike the earlier heavy bifacial tools, these lighter and more specialized flake-based implements allowed prehistoric populations to perform diverse activities more efficiently. Scrapers were used for hide processing, borers for piercing materials, and points for projectiles. This diversification of the toolkit indicates an advancement in technological versatility and the development of more refined subsistence and manufacturing strategies among ancient hunter-gatherer communities across the Indian subcontinent.

245. (C) Lower Palaeolithic period

The Sohan industry and the Acheulian industry are two distinct cultural and technological traditions belonging to the Lower Palaeolithic period. The Sohan industry is a regional tradition focused in the northwestern subcontinent and is characterized by pebble-based chopper tools. In contrast, the Acheulian industry is widespread across much of the subcontinent and is defined by more complex bifacial tools like handaxes and cleavers. Both industries represent the earliest stages of human tool-making in India, reflecting diverse regional adaptations and different approaches to lithic technology during the initial phase of the Stone Age.

246. (B) The manufacture of tailored clothing.

The appearance of finely made bone needles during the Upper Palaeolithic is archaeological evidence that suggests the manufacture of tailored clothing. These needles were likely used to sew together animal hides and furs, allowing prehistoric humans to create more effective protection against environmental conditions. This technological innovation represents a significant advancement in human survival strategies and craftsmanship. The ability to craft specialized tools like needles from bone reflects

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The use of non-representational designs, such as patterns and geometric shapes, suggests a highly developed mental framework. This type of art indicates that prehistoric humans were capable of conceptualizing and communicating ideas that were not purely literal or based on the physical world. It points toward an early development of abstract reasoning and the ability to assign symbolic meanings to visual forms.

295. (C) The sandstone shelters of central India.

A remarkably high density of prehistoric artistic sites is found within the rugged landscapes of central India. The geological formations of the Vindhya and Satpura ranges provided numerous natural rock shelters that were ideal for human habitation and artistic expression. These sandstone clusters contain some of the most extensive and best-preserved records of ancient painting, spanning several millennia of human history.

296. (D) Bhimbetka.

This specific location in Madhya Pradesh is recognized globally as a site of exceptional archaeological and artistic value. It features a vast complex of rock shelters containing thousands of paintings that document human life from the Mesolithic through the historic periods. Because of its scale, continuity, and diversity of themes, it remains the most significant center for studying prehistoric art in India.

297. (A) The animal world and human-animal interactions.

Systematic analysis of the themes present in Indian rock paintings reveals a deep preoccupation with the surrounding natural environment. A significant majority of the artwork focuses on various animal species and the complex relationships humans maintained with them. This thematic focus is a direct reflection of a hunting-gathering economy, where understanding and interacting with wildlife were central to daily survival and culture.

298. (B) The existence of social cooperation and planning.

Paintings that portray multiple individuals participating in organized hunting activities offer evidence of advanced social structures. Such scenes imply that these prehistoric groups were not merely acting as individuals but were capable of sophisticated collective behavior. Successfully capturing large game required communication, shared goals, and the ability to coordinate complex actions, demonstrating a high level of cooperation within these ancient communities.

299. (B) Certain locations held continuous significance over time.

The practice of painting new images directly over older ones provides important clues about the cultural importance of specific rock shelters. This repetition suggests that these particular spots were not chosen randomly but were regarded as special or sacred over many generations. The layering of artwork indicates that these sites served as enduring focal points for social or ritual activities across centuries.

300. (A) Reflects changes in beliefs and societies over time.

This body of prehistoric artwork is viewed as a continually evolving record of the past. It captures a sequence of cultural shifts, documenting how human technologies, social organizations, and spiritual beliefs transformed across different eras. By examining these changes, researchers can treat the art as a functional archive that preserves the dynamic history of the people who inhabited these landscapes for millennia.

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(D) It is primarily known for its large ash-mounds.

53. Which of the following sites belongs to the Neolithic culture of the North-Eastern region of India?
(A) Teklakota
(B) Mahagara
(C) Marakdola
(D) Piklihal

54. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic culture of North-Eastern India is characterized by shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery.
Statement II : These cultural traits are entirely indigenous and show no affinity with cultures outside the Indian subcontinent.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

55. Examine the following sites:
1. Chirand
2. Koldihwa
3. Daojali Hading
4. Senuwar
5. Kuchai

Which of the above are classified under Eastern and North-Eastern Neolithic sites?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 1, 3, 4, and 5
(C) 2, 4, and 5 only
(D) All of the above

56. The Neolithic sites of the North-Eastern region, such as Sarutaru and Daojali Hading, are primarily identified through surface finds of:
(A) polished stone tools and specific pottery types.
(B) pit-dwellings and bone tools.
(C) ash-mounds and cattle pens.
(D) microliths and rock art.

57. The term 'Ash-mound' in the context of Southern Peninsular India refers to:
(A) natural volcanic ash deposits.
(B) burial mounds containing cremated human remains.
(C) accumulations of vitrified ash and dung from Neolithic cattle pens.
(D) mounds formed from the debris of burnt wattle-and-daub houses.

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58. Sanganakallu, Pikhlihal, and Uttnur are prominent Neolithic sites located in which part of India?
(A) The Southern Peninsula
(B) The North-Eastern region
(C) The Kashmir Valley
(D) The Central Ganga Valley

59. Which of the following is a key characteristic of the Neolithic cultural development in southern peninsular India?
(A) Primary dependence on wheat and barley cultivation.
(B) Construction of pit-dwellings as the main form of habitation.
(C) A tool industry dominated by microliths with no polished axes.
(D) The presence of ash-mounds associated with pastoralism.

60. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The economy of the Southern Neolithic culture was significantly based on cattle pastoralism.
Reason (R) : The presence of large ash-mounds, interpreted as burnt cattle-dung accumulations, strongly supports this conclusion.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

61. Which of the following is NOT a Neolithic site in southern peninsular India?
(A) Kodekal
(B) Teklakota
(C) Lahuradewa
(D) Hallur

(B) butchering large-bodied animals with greater efficiency.
(C) clearing dense forest environments for new settlement.
(D) serving purely ritualistic or non-utilitarian purposes.

9. Identify the incorrect statement concerning the transition from the Palaeolithic to the Mesolithic/Epi-Palaeolithic.
(A) It was triggered by the climatic changes at the end of the Pleistocene.
(B) Sea levels rose, altering coastlines and available resources.
(C) There was a universal and immediate shift to agriculture.
(D) Megafauna like mammoths and woolly rhinos became extinct.

10. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : Epi-Palaeolithic cultures in West Asia show evidence of increasing sedentism long before the advent of agriculture.
Reason (R) : The intensive exploitation of abundant and predictable resources like wild cereals and gazelle herds made a settled lifestyle possible.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

11. What is the fundamental innovation that marks the beginning of the Neolithic period?
(A) The engineering and practical invention of the wheel.
(B) The architectural construction of the world's first cities.
(C) The metallurgical transition to the use of metal tools.
(D) Cultivation of plants and domestication of animals.

12. Which of the following pairs correctly matches a Neolithic region with its primary domesticated cereal?
(A) West Asia - Rice
(B) West Asia - Barley
(C) Northern China - Wheat
(D) Southern China - Millet

13. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic stage in West Asia is broadly divided into Pre-Pottery and Pottery phases.
Statement II : This division indicates that settled village life and agriculture emerged only after the invention of pottery.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

14. The establishment of permanent villages in the West Asian Neolithic was a direct result of:
(A) the urgent need for defense against hostile neighboring groups.
(B) the logistical development of long-distance trade networks.
(C) the architectural invention of mud-brick construction styles.
(D) commitment to agricultural lands and food production.

15. Consider the following statements regarding the Neolithic stage in China:
1. The primary cereal in the north (Yellow River valley) was millet.
2. Rice was the principal domesticate in the south (Yangtze River valley).
3. The domestication of the pig was widespread and culturally important.
4. Neolithic developments in China were heavily influenced by migrations from West Asia.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 1, 3 and 4

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34. Which statement correctly describes the earliest Neolithic phase (Period I) at Mehrgarh?
(A) It was an aceramic phase with agriculture and animal husbandry.
(B) It was a pottery-using culture with advanced regional metalwork.
(C) It was a hunter-gatherer camp lacking permanent structures.
(D) It was characterized by cultivation of rice and millet.

35. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The Neolithic culture of Kashmir is characterized by dwelling pits.
Reason (R) : These subterranean pits provided insulation and protection from the harsh cold weather of the region.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

36. Besides Mehrgarh, which other site is known as an early farming community of Baluchistan?
(A) Koldihwa
(B) Sanganakallu
(C) Chirand
(D) Kili-Gul-Muhammad

37. The Neolithic culture of Kashmir is characterized by all of the following features EXCEPT:
(A) a prominent bone and antler tool industry.
(B) the construction of dwelling pits.
(C) evidence for the cultivation of ragi (finger millet).
(D) a distinctive burnished grey ware.

38. The unique abundance of bone tools at Kashmir Neolithic sites, compared to other Neolithic regions in India, suggests:
(A) a complete lack of knowledge of stone tool manufacturing.
(B) a cultural preference and local adaptation using readily available materials.
(C) that the inhabitants were primarily fishermen.
(D) a strong cultural influence from Central Ganga Neolithic sites.

39. Which statement about the Kashmir Neolithic is incorrect?
(A) Evidence suggests contact with cultures of Central Asia and China.
(B) Polished stone tools, including harvesters, were in use.
(C) Burials of both humans and animals have been found.
(D) The economy was based solely on hunting wild animals.

40. Consider the following features associated with the early farming communities of Baluchistan, particularly Mehrgarh:
1. Cultivation of wheat and barley.
2. Presence of handmade, coarse pottery from the earliest levels.
3. Construction of multi-roomed mud-brick houses.
4. Domestication of cattle, sheep, and goats.

Which of these features are characteristic of aceramic Neolithic Mehrgarh (Period I)?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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41. The Neolithic sites of Koldihwa and Mahagara, known for early evidence related to rice, are located in which region?
(A) Kashmir Valley
(B) Baluchistan
(C) The Central Ganga and Vindhyan region
(D) Southern Peninsular India

42. Which statement accurately describes a key finding from the Neolithic sites in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region?
(A) They have yielded cord-impressed pottery and evidence for rice.
(B) These sites show the earliest evidence for wheat cultivation in India.
(C) The primary structures found are large ash-mounds.
(D) The toolkits are dominated by a microlithic industry with no ground stone tools.

1. Use of polished stone celts
2. Predominance of microlithic tools
3. Acheulean bifaces
4. Flake-based Middle Palaeolithic tools

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(A) 3, 4, 1, 2
(B) 2, 1, 3, 4
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 4, 3, 2, 1

26. Sites located in ox-bow lakes formed by shifting river courses, particularly in the Gangetic plains, are referred to as:
(A) horseshoe lake sites.
(B) coastal sites.
(C) plateau sites.
(D) sand-dune sites.

27. What is considered potential evidence for the 'incipient stages of food production' during the Indian Mesolithic?
(A) The presence of fully domesticated wheat and barley.
(B) The construction of large-scale irrigation canals.
(C) The discovery of iron ploughshares at Mesolithic sites.
(D) The analysis of pollen grains showing early forms of cultivation.

28. The formation of horseshoe lake sites in the Ganga Valley during the Holocene was a direct result of:
(A) tectonic upliftment.
(B) the meandering and shifting courses of rivers.
(C) human-made dam construction.
(D) glacial meltwater forming large reservoirs.

29. Which of the following pairs of an Indian Mesolithic site-type and a representative region is correctly matched?
(A) Rock-shelter sites - Coastal Kerala
(B) Sand-dune sites - Central Ganga Valley
(C) Alluvial plain sites - Middle Ganga Valley
(D) Horseshoe lake sites - Vindhyan region.

30. Match the early farming community/site in List I with its geographical location in List II.

List I: (Site)
P. Mehrgarh
Q. Koldihwa
R. Chirand
S. Sarutaru

List II: (Location)
1. Bihar
2. Assam
3. Baluchistan
4. Uttar Pradesh (Vindhyan Region)

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

31. The early farming community of Mehrgarh is located in which modern-day region?
(A) The Baluchistan plains of Pakistan
(B) The Kashmir Valley
(C) The Ganga Plains
(D) The Deccan Plateau

32. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The site of Mehrgarh provides a continuous archaeological sequence from an aceramic Neolithic stage to the Harappan period.
Statement II : Kili-Gul-Muhammad represents a distinct cultural tradition that has no connection to the developments at Mehrgarh.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

33. The most significant contribution of the site of Mehrgarh to South Asian archaeology is its evidence for:
(A) the earliest metallurgical use of iron in the subcontinent.
(B) indigenous and long-term agricultural development.
(C) a major Mesolithic hunting camp for nomadic groups.
(D) the cultural origins of large megalithic burials.

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3. The Southern Neolithic is distinguished by its large ash-mounds.
4. The Eastern Neolithic (Chirand) has a rich bone tool industry.
5. All Neolithic cultures in India emerged simultaneously and had identical toolkits.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 1, 3 and 5 only
(C) 2, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

71. The Epi-Palaeolithic stage in West Asia is best understood as:
(A) the final phase of the Upper Palaeolithic with no significant changes.
(B) the earliest phase of the Neolithic, characterized by pottery.
(C) a period equivalent to the European Bronze Age.
(D) a transitional hunter-gatherer period preceding the Neolithic.

72. The primary reason for the shift from large game hunting in the Palaeolithic to a more varied subsistence in the Mesolithic was:
(A) a change in climate and environment leading to the extinction of megafauna.
(B) a cultural taboo against hunting large animals.
(C) the invention of agricultural tools which made hunting obsolete.
(D) a sudden decrease in the human population.

73. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The Neolithic Revolution led to a significant increase in human population densities.
Reason (R) : Food production provided a more stable and abundant food supply, which could support larger communities.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

74. What is the key difference between the early Neolithic of the Yellow River valley and the Yangtze River valley in China?
(A) The cultivation of millet versus rice.
(B) The use of stone tools versus bone tools.
(C) The presence of pottery versus its absence.
(D) A pastoral economy versus an agricultural one.

75. Which of the following pairs of a Mesolithic adaptation pattern and a site location is incorrectly matched?
(A) Alluvial plains - Middle Ganga Valley
(B) Rock-shelter sites - Vindhyan plateaus
(C) Coastal sites - Estuaries and lagoons
(D) Sand-dune sites - Coastal Tamil Nadu

76. The presence of querns and mullers at Indian Mesolithic sites, although not definitive proof of agriculture, strongly suggests:
(A) the creation of rock art.
(B) the processing of plant foods like wild grains and seeds.
(C) the manufacturing of microlithic tools.
(D) the construction of permanent housing.

77. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : Regional variations in Mesolithic tool assemblages across India reflect adaptations to local raw materials and environments.
Statement II : The Mesolithic culture of the entire Indian subcontinent was completely uniform.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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78. Evidence from Mesolithic rock-shelter sites in central India includes all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) microlithic tool debris on the floors.
(B) paintings depicting scenes of hunting and dancing.
(C) human burials within the shelters.
(D) wheel-thrown pottery and iron implements.

43. The site of Lahuradewa in the Central Ganga region is particularly significant for its:
(A) extensive bone tool industry.
(B) large, well-preserved ash mounds.
(C) evidence of Pre-Pottery Neolithic phase similar to Mehrgarh.
(D) very early dates for the use of cultivated rice.

44. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The sites of Koldihwa and Mahagara show a cultural continuity from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic.
Statement II : At Mahagara, evidence for cattle pens has been interpreted from post-hole alignments.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

45. Consider the following archaeological sites:
1. Mahagara
2. Mehrgarh
3. Chirand
4. Lahuradewa
5. Koldihwa
Which of the above sites are located in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region and are significant for the Neolithic culture there?
(A) 1, 2, and 3
(B) 2, 3, and 5
(C) 1, 4, and 5
(D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

46. In the context of Eastern Neolithic sites, a shouldered celt is:
(A) a type of pottery with a shoulder-like design.
(B) a bone tool used for scraping hides.
(C) a burial practice involving the placement of stones on the shoulder.
(D) a polished stone axe with a tenon or shoulder for hafting.

47. The Neolithic site of Chirand, famous for its remarkable bone tool industry, is located in which modern Indian state?
(A) Bihar
(B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) West Bengal
(D) Odisha

48. Which of the following is NOT a significant Eastern Neolithic site?
(A) Senuwar
(B) Nagarjunakonda
(C) Kuchai
(D) Baidyapur

49. Which pair of an Eastern/North-Eastern Neolithic site and its key characteristic is correctly matched?
(A) Chirand - Ash-mounds
(B) Sarutaru - Shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery
(C) Daojali Hading - Extensive metal tools
(D) Kuchai - Pit-dwellings

50. Arrange the following Neolithic cultural regions of India based on the general timeline of their emergence, from earliest to latest.
1. Southern Neolithic (Ash-mound tradition)
2. Baluchistan Neolithic (Mehrgarh)
3. Eastern Neolithic (Chirand)
4. Kashmir Neolithic
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 3, 4, 1
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

51. The presence of cord-impressed pottery and shouldered celts at North-Eastern Neolithic sites like Daojali Hading and Sarutaru suggests potential cultural connections with:
(A) Peninsular India.
(B) Baluchistan and West Asia.
(C) Southeast Asia and Southern China.
(D) The Kashmir Valley.

52. Which statement regarding the Eastern Neolithic site of Senuwar is incorrect?
(A) It shows a multi-crop economy including rice, barley, and lentils.
(B) It has a Chalcolithic phase succeeding the Neolithic.
(C) It has yielded evidence of wattle-and-daub houses.

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CHAPTER 04

Mesolithic and Neolithic Cultures

1. The term 'Mesolithic', as applied to European prehistory, primarily signifies a period of:
(A) transition from hunting-gathering to full-fledged agriculture.
(B) adaptation by hunter-gatherers to post-glacial environments.
(C) large-scale megalithic construction by tribal groups.
(D) dominance of core tool industries like the Acheulean.

2. In which geographical region is the term 'Epi-Palaeolithic' most appropriately used to describe post-glacial hunter-gatherer adaptations?
(A) West Asia
(B) Northern Europe
(C) The Indian subcontinent
(D) Central Africa

3. Which of the following statements about the European Mesolithic is correct?
(A) It was characterized by a uniform culture across the entire continent.
(B) Subsistence was focused exclusively on hunting large herd animals like mammoth.
(C) It saw the development of composite tools using microliths.
(D) All Mesolithic communities were fully sedentary from the beginning.

4. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : Epi-Palaeolithic communities in West Asia began to show signs of increased sedentism.
Statement II : This shift was largely independent of any changes in the availability of local flora and fauna.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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5. Match the Mesolithic cultural term in List I with its primary associated region in Europe in List II.
List I: (Culture)
P. Maglemosian
Q. Azilian
R. Tardenoisian
S. Asturian
List II: (Region)
1. Northern Spain (Coastal)
2. France, Belgium
3. Denmark, North Germany
4. Pyrenees, Southern France
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

6. The broad-spectrum revolution during the Mesolithic refers to the strategy of:
(A) a specialized focus on hunting a diverse variety of large mammalian species.
(B) exploiting a wider range of resources like plants, birds, and aquatic life.
(C) establishing complex trade networks for exotic goods over long distances.
(D) developing a diverse set of tools for a single specialized economic task.

7. Developments in the Epi-Palaeolithic of West Asia included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) intensified collection of wild cereals.
(B) increased sedentism in resource-rich areas.
(C) development of microlithic technology.
(D) the first use of polished stone axes.

8. The appearance of microliths hafted as barbs on arrows or harpoons during the Mesolithic suggests an adaptation towards:
(A) hunting smaller and faster-moving forest or aquatic fauna.

62. The location of many Southern Neolithic sites on granite hills or plateaus is best explained as a strategic choice for:
(A) access to marine resources.
(B) proximity to major copper ore deposits.
(C) suitability for large-scale wheat farming.
(D) better defense and vantage points for managing cattle herds.

63. Which statement regarding the Southern Neolithic ash-mound sites is incorrect?
(A) They are found in abundance in the Kashmir Valley.
(B) Sites like Uttnur and Pikhlihal are well-known examples.
(C) They are believed to be the result of seasonal or periodic burning of cattle enclosures.
(D) They point towards the importance of cattle in the economy and ritual.

64. The Neolithic site of Nagarjunakonda, which also has later historical importance, is situated in which modern state?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Andhra Pradesh/Telangana
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Kerala

65. Consider the following characteristics of the Neolithic culture in southern peninsular India:
1. Cultivation of millets like ragi.
2. Prominence of ash-mounds.
3. A grey or buff-brown handmade pottery.
4. An economy based exclusively on maritime trade.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2, 3 and 4

66. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The site of Hallur in the Southern Neolithic has yielded evidence for the cultivation of ragi (finger millet).
Statement II : The Southern Neolithic is succeeded by an Iron Age phase, sometimes with an overlap, as seen at Hallur.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

67. Match the Neolithic site in List I with its corresponding state/region in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Teklakota
Q. Chirand
R. Sarutaru
S. Kili-Gul-Muhammad
List II: (Region)
1. Bihar
2. Baluchistan
3. Karnataka
4. Assam
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

68. Which site among the following is specifically known as an ash-mound site of the Southern Neolithic?
(A) Chirand
(B) Koldihwa
(C) Daojali Hading
(D) Uttnur

69. Which statement accurately describes the subsistence base of the Southern Neolithic people?
(A) They were exclusively hunter-gatherers.
(B) They relied entirely on marine fishing and trade.
(C) They practiced a mixed economy of agriculture (millets) and pastoralism (cattle-keeping).
(D) They were intensive rice cultivators using canal irrigation.

70. Consider the following statements about Neolithic cultures of the Indian subcontinent:
1. The Kashmir Neolithic is known for its pit-dwellings.
2. The Baluchistan Neolithic (Mehrgarh) shows the earliest evidence of agriculture in the subcontinent.

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16. In the context of the Indian subcontinent, 'micro-blade technology' refers to a specialized technique for producing:
(A) large, bifacially flaked handaxes.
(B) small, parallel-sided blades from a prepared core.
(C) heavy, polished stone axes.
(D) crude chopper-chopping tools.

17. What is the most characteristic feature of the Mesolithic culture of the Indian subcontinent?
(A) The construction of large urban centers.
(B) The widespread use of microlithic tools.
(C) The practice of intensive rice agriculture.
(D) The creation of cave paintings depicting domesticated animals.

18. Geometric forms such as lunates, trapezes, and triangles are commonly found in the tool assemblages of which cultural period in India?
(A) Mesolithic
(B) Lower Palaeolithic
(C) Middle Palaeolithic
(D) Neolithic

19. Which statement about Indian Mesolithic tool technology is incorrect?
(A) It was based on the production of micro-blades from fluted cores.
(B) The tools were often used as components in composite tools.
(C) The primary raw materials were invariably large river cobbles.
(D) Non-geometric forms like backed blades were also part of the toolkit.

20. Examine the following tool types associated with stone tool technology:
1. Fluted Cores
2. Lunates
3. Backed Blades
4. Acheulean Handaxes
5. Trapezes

Which of the above are characteristic components of Indian Mesolithic tool assemblages?
(A) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(B) 1, 2, 3 and 5
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 3, 4 and 5

21. Which of the following statements accurately describes the regional variations in Mesolithic tool assemblages in India?
(A) All Mesolithic sites in India show a uniform tool kit with no regional differences.
(B) Western India is characterized by a complete absence of microliths.
(C) The proportion of geometric microliths varies significantly from region to region.
(D) The Ganga Valley sites exclusively feature non-geometric tools.

22. The widespread distribution of Mesolithic sites across diverse ecological zones in India, such as alluvial plains, rock-shelters, and coastal areas, indicates:
(A) a singular focus on a riverine economy.
(B) a high degree of adaptability and mobility.
(C) the existence of a pan-Indian political empire.
(D) a complete rejection of forest environments.

23. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : Some Mesolithic sites in the Ganga valley have yielded evidence of human burials with grave goods.
Statement II : This evidence suggests the existence of social differentiation and ritual beliefs among Mesolithic populations.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are true, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

24. Mesolithic populations in India adapted to various ecological niches, including which of the following site types EXCEPT:
(A) high-altitude glacial sites.
(B) sand-dune sites.
(C) horseshoe lakes.
(D) rock-shelter sites.

25. Arrange the following technological stages in the prehistory of the Indian subcontinent in the correct chronological order:

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79. Arrange the following developments at Mehrgarh in their correct chronological sequence:
1. Introduction of wheel-thrown pottery
2. Emergence of a pre-pottery (aceramic) Neolithic village
3. Cultivation of cotton
4. Domestication of wheat and barley

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 4, 1, 2, 3
(C) 1, 2, 3, 4
(D) 2, 1, 4, 3

80. Match the distinct feature in List I with the corresponding Neolithic cultural region in India in List II.
List I: (Feature)
P. Dwelling pits and bone harpoons
Q. Ash-mounds and cattle pastoralism
R. Early evidence of rice and cord-impressed pottery
S. Aceramic stage with wheat/barley cultivation
List II: (Region)
1. Baluchistan
2. Kashmir
3. Southern Peninsula
4. Central Ganga/Vindhyan region

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2

81. What material was predominantly used for the extensive tool industry found at the Neolithic site of Chirand?
(A) Chert and Chalcedony
(B) Antler and Bone
(C) Copper and Bronze
(D) Basalt and Granite

82. The Neolithic culture of the North-Eastern region of India shows strong affinities with the Neolithic cultures of:
(A) Southeast Asia.
(B) Mesopotamia.
(C) Egypt.
(D) the Indus Valley Civilization.

83. The site of Pikhlihal in Southern India is significant for the study of Neolithic culture, particularly for its evidence of:
(A) an early aceramic phase.
(B) dwelling pits similar to Kashmir.
(C) both an ash-mound and a settlement site.
(D) a large corpus of rock art.

84. Which statement about the site of Kodekal is incorrect?
(A) It is a Neolithic ash-mound site.
(B) It is located in the southern peninsular region.
(C) It provides evidence for Neolithic pastoral activity.
(D) It is primarily known for its extensive bone tool industry.

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85. Consider the following sites:
1. Sanganakallu
2. Hallur
3. Teklakota
4. Lahuradewa

Which of the above are Neolithic sites located in the southern peninsular India?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

86. The development of food production during the Neolithic period is considered a 'revolution' because it:
(A) happened violently and suddenly across the globe.
(B) fundamentally transformed human society, economy, and demography.
(C) was the first time humans used stone tools.
(D) led to the immediate abandonment of hunting and gathering.

87. 'Incipient food production' refers to:
(A) a fully developed agricultural system with irrigation.
(B) a society that relies solely on imported food.
(C) the foraging of wild foods without any human intervention.

(D) All of the above

106. Which of the following statements regarding the Kashmir Neolithic is incorrect?
(A) The pottery is predominantly wheel-made and painted from the earliest levels.
(B) The site of Gufkral means 'cave of the potter'.
(C) The economy was supplemented by hunting and fishing.
(D) A distinguishing feature is the polished stone harvester with two perforations.

107. The presence of circular huts with wattle-and-daub walls is a feature associated with the Neolithic settlements of which region?
(A) Kashmir Valley
(B) Baluchistan
(C) The North-East
(D) Central Ganga and Vindhyan region

108. The striking similarity between the bone tools of Chirand and some Neolithic sites in China and Southeast Asia is often cited as evidence for:
(A) random coincidence.
(B) possible cultural diffusion or contact.
(C) independent invention of identical forms.
(D) a shared Palaeolithic ancestry.

109. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic cultures of the North-Eastern region are often grouped under the term 'Eastern Neolithic'.
Statement II : Despite geographical proximity, the North-Eastern Neolithic shows distinct tool and pottery types compared to sites like Chirand in the middle Ganga plains.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

110. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The Neolithic culture of southern India is often called the 'Neolithic-Chalcolithic' in its later phases.
Reason (R) : At several sites, a small number of copper and bronze objects appear alongside the continuing use of stone tools, indicating an overlap.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

111. Match the archaeological site in List I with the primary cultural period it represents in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Daojali Hading
Q. Mahagara
R. Piklihal
S. Kili-Gul-Muhammad
List II: (Period/Culture)
1. Southern Neolithic
2. Baluchistan Early Farming
3. North-Eastern Neolithic
4. Central Vindhyan Neolithic
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

112. The site of Teklakota, a major Neolithic settlement in southern India, is located in the present-day state of:
(A) Tamil Nadu.
(B) Karnataka.
(C) Kerala.
(D) Andhra Pradesh.

113. Which statement correctly describes the nature of food production in the European Mesolithic?
(A) Full-scale agriculture was practiced throughout Europe.
(B) It was non-existent; food production is a defining trait of the Neolithic.
(C) There was no use of plant resources; subsistence was based only on hunting.
(D) The domestication of the horse was the primary economic activity.

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96. Which of the following pairs of a Neolithic site and its defining characteristic is correctly matched?
(A) Mehrgarh - Dwelling pits
(B) Uttnur - Ash-mound
(C) Chirand - Earliest evidence of cotton
(D) Koldihwa - Bone tool industry

97. Neolithic sites in the southern peninsular India include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Sanganakallu
(B) Kuchai
(C) Teklakota
(D) Hallur

98. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic culture of southern India is marked by the cultivation of millets and pulses.
Statement II : This agricultural practice was well-suited to the semi-arid climate of the Deccan plateau.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

99. The site of Baidyapur is an example of the Neolithic culture in which region?
(A) Kashmir
(B) Baluchistan
(C) Eastern India
(D) Southern India

100. Arrange the following Indian Neolithic sites/ regions in a general north-to-south geographical order.
1. Sarutaru
2. Burzahom (Kashmir)
3. Chirand
4. Sanganakallu

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 4, 3, 2, 1
(C) 2, 1, 3, 4
(D) 1, 2, 4, 3

101. The term 'microlith' in archaeology refers to:
(A) any large stone tool.
(B) a type of ground and polished stone tool.
(C) a small stone tool, typically 1 to 5 cm long, often made from a micro-blade.
(D) a natural, unworked stone used for grinding.

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102. A researcher excavating a site on a stabilized sand dune in Gujarat finds a dense scatter of microliths, animal bones, and hearths. This site most likely represents a:
(A) Neolithic farming village.
(B) Mesolithic seasonal camp.
(C) Palaeolithic factory site.
(D) Chalcolithic metal-working station.

103. Which statement accurately reflects the distribution of Mesolithic sites in India?
(A) They are found only in the Vindhyan rock-shelters.
(B) They are restricted to the coastal regions of the peninsula.
(C) They are completely absent from the Gangetic alluvial plains.
(D) They are found in almost all parts of the country in diverse ecological settings.

104. The evidence of human burials found at Mesolithic sites in the Ganga Valley, such as Sarai Nahar Rai and Mahadaha, is most significant for providing insights into:
(A) palaeo-demography and social-ritual practices.
(B) dietary habits and subsistence patterns.
(C) tool manufacturing techniques.
(D) long-distance trade networks.

105. Consider the following statements about the site of Mehrgarh:
1. It is located in the Kachi plains of Baluchistan.
2. Its earliest level is aceramic but shows evidence of agriculture.
3. It has provided the earliest evidence for cotton cultivation in the subcontinent.
4. It was abruptly abandoned and shows no continuity into later periods.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4

(D) intensive cattle-herding and pastoral activity.

124. All the sites listed below are located in the southern peninsular India EXCEPT:
(A) Pikhlihal.
(B) Chechar.
(C) Uttnur.
(D) Sanganakallu.

125. Arrange the following Indian archaeological sites in the chronological order of the emergence of their earliest food-producing levels.
1. Hallur
2. Mehrgarh
3. Koldihwa
4. Lahuradewa

Select the correct answer using the code given below:
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 4, 2, 1, 3
(D) 2, 3, 1, 4

126. In the context of the Neolithic, food production explicitly refers to:
(A) the gathering of wild edible plants.
(B) the hunting of animals for meat.
(C) the exchange of food items between groups.
(D) human-controlled breeding of plants and animals.

127. Which site is an example of Neolithic culture in the North-Eastern region, along with Sarutaru, Selbalgiri, and Marakdola?
(A) Daojali Hading
(B) Koldihwa
(C) Chirand
(D) Mehrgarh

128. Which statement best describes the relationship between the Mesolithic and Neolithic in the Ganga Valley?
(A) The Neolithic culture appeared suddenly without any local Mesolithic precedent.
(B) There is evidence for a transition and overlap, with Neolithic traits developing from a late Mesolithic base.
(C) The Mesolithic and Neolithic people were two distinct groups that never interacted.
(D) The Mesolithic culture in the Ganga Valley continued unchanged even after the Neolithic began elsewhere.

129. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The Mesolithic period is characterized by the use of composite tools.
Reason (R) : Small microliths were hafted onto bone or wooden handles to create more efficient tools like sickles, knives, and barbed arrows.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

130. Match the site in List I with the specific evidence it is famous for in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Lahuradewa
Q. Uttnur
R. Mehrgarh
S. Chirand
List II: (Evidence)
1. Aceramic Neolithic with wheat/barley
2. Exceptional bone tool industry
3. Very early evidence of cultivated rice
4. Neolithic ash-mound

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

131. Which statement about the West Asian Neolithic is incorrect?
(A) The process began in the geographical area known as the Fertile Crescent.
(B) Domestication of plants like wheat and barley preceded animal domestication.
(C) The invention of pottery occurred before the first signs of plant cultivation.
(D) The Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (PPNA) is characterized by circular dwellings.

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114. If a site in West Asia dated to 9000 BCE yielded evidence of permanent mud-brick structures, grinding stones, and seeds of wild-form wheat and barley, it would most likely be classified as:
(A) Epi-Palaeolithic (Late).
(B) Upper Palaeolithic.
(C) Pottery Neolithic.
(D) Chalcolithic.

115. The characteristic tool-kit of the Indian Mesolithic includes all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Trapezes
(B) Lunates
(C) Polished Celts
(D) Backed Blades

116. The term ecological adaptation in the context of the Indian Mesolithic best refers to:
(A) The universal adoption of a single lifestyle by all Mesolithic people.
(B) The complete transformation of the natural landscape through farming.
(C) The building of large cities to protect against environmental hazards.
(D) Different groups developing strategies to survive in diverse environments.

117. Consider the following statements regarding the Neolithic cultures of India:
1. The site of Hallur is located in the Southern Peninsular region.
2. The site of Senuwar is an Eastern Neolithic site.
3. The site of Selbalgiri belongs to the Kashmir Neolithic.
4. The site of Marakdola is in the North-Eastern region.
5. The site of Kodekal is a well-known ash-mound site.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(D) 1, 3 and 5 only

118. Which of the following pairs of a Neolithic site and its geographical region is incorrectly matched?
(A) Nagarjunakonda - Southern Peninsular India
(B) Kili-Gul-Muhammad - Kashmir Valley
(C) Lahuradewa - Central Ganga Region
(D) Sarutaru - North-Eastern Region

119. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic site of Lahuradewa has pushed back the antiquity of rice cultivation in the subcontinent.
Statement II : The dates from Lahuradewa are significantly earlier than those previously known from Koldihwa.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

120. The Neolithic site of Kuchai, known for its stratigraphic context showing a succession from a microlithic to a Neolithic industry, is located in the state of:
(A) Odisha.
(B) Bihar.
(C) Assam.
(D) Uttar Pradesh.

121. The Neolithic culture in Kashmir shows a notable absence of which feature that is common in other Indian Neolithic cultures?
(A) Polished stone tools
(B) Pottery
(C) A distinct microlithic blade industry
(D) Evidence of agriculture

122. An archaeologist discovers a site containing only ground stone axes, handmade pottery, and evidence of millet cultivation. This assemblage is most typical of which regional Neolithic culture in India?
(A) Southern Peninsular India.
(B) Kashmir.
(C) Baluchistan.
(D) Central Ganga Valley.

123. The primary significance of the ash-mounds of Southern India is that they serve as a direct archaeological proxy for:
(A) large-scale pottery production.
(B) the location of ancient burial grounds.
(C) frequent volcanic eruptions in the region.

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(B) a settlement built entirely of large rocks.
(C) a naturally formed shallow cave-like opening at the base of a cliff or rock formation.
(D) a religious shrine constructed within a large boulder.

142. The Mesolithic site of Bagor in Rajasthan, located on a sand dune, is famous for its rich microlithic industry and evidence of:
(A) Rice cultivation.
(B) Large ash mounds.
(C) Pit-dwellings.
(D) A floor paved with stones and bones.

143. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : No evidence of any artistic activity has been found at any Indian Mesolithic site.
Statement II : The rock paintings at Bhimbetka depict scenes of hunting, dancing, and daily life, many of which are attributed to the Mesolithic period.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

144. The transition from the aceramic to the ceramic phase at a Neolithic site like Mehrgarh indicates:
(A) A decline in the importance of agriculture.
(B) The adoption or invention of a new technology for making containers.
(C) A shift from a settled to a nomadic lifestyle.
(D) The complete replacement of the original population.

145. Consider the following statements about Neolithic sites in India:
1. Teklakota is a Southern Neolithic site.
2. Baidyapur is an Eastern Neolithic site.
3. Marakdola is a North-Eastern Neolithic site.
4. Kili-Gul-Muhammad is an early farming site in Baluchistan.
5. Mahagara is a key Neolithic site in Kashmir.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2 and 4 only

146. Which statement regarding the Neolithic site of Hallur is incorrect?
(A) It is primarily known for its extensive aceramic levels similar to Mehrgarh.
(B) It is located in Karnataka.
(C) It has provided evidence for the cultivation of ragi.
(D) It shows an overlap between the Neolithic and Iron Age.

147. The Neolithic culture of the southern peninsular India is thought to have a subsistence economy best described as:
(A) Exclusively agricultural.
(B) Exclusively pastoral.
(C) Agro-pastoral.
(D) Maritime-focused.

148. Which of the following regions is NOT associated with early farming communities in the Neolithic cultures of the Indian subcontinent?
(A) Baluchistan.
(B) The Kashmir Valley.
(C) The Central Ganga Region.
(D) The Thar Desert.

149. The discovery of a dog buried with its master is a unique feature found at which Indian Neolithic site?
(A) Chirand
(B) Sanganakallu
(C) Burzahom
(D) Mehrgarh

150. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : Some scholars suggest a West Asian origin for the wheat and barley found at Mehrgarh.
Reason (R) : The wild ancestors of wheat and barley are not native to the Indian subcontinent but are found in the Fertile Crescent.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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132. A discovery of a burial at a Mesolithic site in the Ganga Valley containing a human skeleton with a microlith embedded in a vertebra would be direct evidence of:
(A) a symbolic ritual involving tools.
(B) a hunting accident.
(C) the use of microliths as surgical tools.
(D) interpersonal violence or conflict.

133. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The site of Sanganakallu in Karnataka shows a long sequence of occupation, beginning with a Palaeolithic phase.
Statement II : The Neolithic levels at Sanganakallu are known for evidence of stone tool manufacturing on a large scale.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

134. The heavy concentration of Mesolithic sites in the Vindhyan hills is primarily attributed to:
(A) the region's suitability for rice farming.
(B) the abundance of rock-shelters for habitation and availability of raw material for tools.
(C) its strategic location on ancient maritime trade routes.
(D) the presence of easily mineable copper and iron ores.

135. Consider the following statements regarding the Neolithic culture of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region:
1. It is characterized by the presence of cord-impressed pottery.
2. The sites of Koldihwa and Mahagara are key examples.
3. Evidence points towards an economy based on rice cultivation and animal husbandry.
4. The primary form of dwelling was the subterranean pit-house.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2, 3 and 4

136. Which Neolithic site in the southern peninsular region is located at the confluence of the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers and has evidence of habitation on granite hills?
(A) Teklakota
(B) Kodekal
(C) Sanganakallu
(D) Pikhlihal

137. The Neolithic cultural package that developed in West Asia and spread to Europe included all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Domesticated wheat and barley.
(B) Domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats.
(C) Domesticated maize and potato.
(D) Ground and polished stone tools.

138. Which of the following pairs correctly links a site with its prominent cultural feature?
(A) Mahagara - Cattle pen evidence
(B) Sarutaru - Ash-mound
(C) Mehrgarh - Pit-dwelling
(D) Pikhlihal - Bone harpoons

139. The Neolithic developments in West Asia and China are considered significant because:
(A) They were the only two places in the world where agriculture developed.
(B) Their developments were directly transferred from the Americas.
(C) They completely bypassed a stone tool-using phase.
(D) They represent two independent and primary centers of agricultural origins.

140. Arrange the following phases/cultures in their correct sequence of appearance in West Asia.
1. Pottery Neolithic
2. Natufian Culture (Late Epi-Palaeolithic)
3. Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB)
4. Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (PPNA)

Select the correct answer from the code given below:
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 1, 2, 4, 3
(C) 2, 3, 4, 1
(D) 4, 3, 1, 2

141. A rock-shelter site is defined as:
(A) a man-made cave dug into a mountain.

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(D) early stages of plant and animal management preceding domestication.

88. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Mesolithic period in the Indian subcontinent is characterized by a significant decrease in the number of inhabited sites compared to the Palaeolithic.
Statement II : The climatic conditions of the Holocene were less favorable for human occupation than the Pleistocene.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

89. Which site in the Vindhyan region has yielded evidence for three-fold cultural sequence from Mesolithic to Neolithic to Chalcolithic, along with circular hut floors and early rice?
(A) Mahagara
(B) Lahuradewa
(C) Koldihwa
(D) Chirand.

90. Examine the following features related to Indian Neolithic cultures:
1. Shouldered celts are characteristic of the North-Eastern region.
2. Mehrgarh shows an aceramic Neolithic level.
3. Koldihwa is associated with early evidence of rice.
4. Ash-mounds are a unique feature of the Kashmir Neolithic.
5. Chirand is noted for its profuse bone tool industry.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 5
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(D) 1, 3 and 4 only

91. Which of the following statements about the Neolithic site of Chechar in eastern India is incorrect?
(A) It is located in Bihar, close to Chirand.
(B) It has yielded a Neolithic-Chalcolithic sequence.
(C) It shares cultural similarities with Chirand.
(D) It is primarily famous for its large ash mounds.

92. A prehistorian finds a site with shouldered polished stone axes and pottery with cord or basket impressions. This assemblage is most indicative of the Neolithic culture of which region?
(A) Southern Peninsula
(B) North-Eastern region
(C) Baluchistan
(D) Central Ganga Valley

93. The Neolithic site of Selbalgiri is located in which region of India?
(A) Kashmir
(B) The Vindhyan region
(C) The North-Eastern region
(D) The Southern Peninsula

94. The archaeological evidence from Neolithic sites in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region, such as Koldihwa and Mahagara, is most crucial for understanding the origins of:
(A) wheat agriculture.
(B) millet agriculture.
(C) pastoral nomadism.
(D) rice agriculture.

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95. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The Neolithic assemblage of Chirand is exceptionally rich in tools made of bone and antler.
Reason (R) : The site's location in an alluvial setting with meandering rivers provided abundant raw material from the bones of hunted and consumed animals.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

151. Which of the following is a correct statement regarding the Neolithic site of Senuwar in Bihar?
(A) It is a single-culture site with only Neolithic deposits.
(B) It is famous for its large number of pit-dwellings.
(C) The primary tool type found is the shouldered celt.
(D) It has yielded evidence for a variety of cultivated crops, including rice, barley, and lentils.

152. The adoption of a sedentary lifestyle during the Neolithic was a major contributing factor to:
(A) development of more complex social structures and property concepts.
(B) the dramatic and permanent decline in the total human population.
(C) the complete and total import of all pottery from other regions.
(D) a rapid return to a purely hunting-based nomadic economy.

153. In archaeology, a 'fluted core' is:
(A) A polished stone axe with grooves.
(B) A type of handmade pottery with decorative flutes.
(C) Raw material from which long, parallel-sided micro-blades have been removed.
(D) The central post of a Neolithic hut.

154. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Mesolithic paintings in Central Indian rock-shelters are valuable sources for understanding the socio-economic life of the people.
Statement II : These paintings are often superimposed, indicating that the shelters were used and painted over long periods.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

155. Consider the following statements about the Southern Neolithic culture:
1. It is primarily concentrated on the granite plateaus of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
2. The economy was heavily reliant on cattle pastoralism.
3. Ash-mounds are a distinctive feature of this culture.
4. The primary cereals cultivated were wheat and barley.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

156. Which site, located in the Bellary district of Karnataka, is one of the largest Neolithic factory sites for stone tools in India?
(A) Uttnur
(B) Sanganakallu
(C) Kodekal
(D) Chirand

157. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?
(A) Koldihwa - Rice husk in pottery
(B) Burzahom (Kashmir) - Dog burial
(C) Chirand - Ash mound
(D) Mehrgarh - Cotton fiber

158. The archaeological context of a horseshoe lake site in the Gangetic plains would most likely yield evidence of:
(A) Adaptation to a semi-arid, sand-dune environment.
(B) A culture focused on high-altitude hunting of mountain goats.
(C) A pastoral community living on granite hills.
(D) Exploitation of aquatic resources like fish and turtles, alongside hunting.

159. The presence of marine shells at an inland Mesolithic site like Bagor in Rajasthan would suggest:
(A) Existence of exchange networks or long-distance travel.
(B) A change in the prehistoric local sea level.
(C) That the inhabitants were primarily sea sailors.
(D) That shells were used as a primary food source.

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160. Match the Neolithic site in List I with its distinctive feature/location in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Nagarjunakonda
Q. Marakdola
R. Lahuradewa
S. Teklakota
List II: (Feature/Location)
1. Neolithic site on the banks of river Krishna
2. North-Eastern Neolithic site
3. Neolithic site in the Sant Kabir Nagar district, UP
4. Southern Neolithic site in Karnataka
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

161. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The Neolithic culture of the North-Eastern subcontinent has distinct technological markers like the shouldered celt.
Reason (R) : These tool types show strong affinities with those found in Southeast Asia and Southern China, suggesting cultural interaction.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

162. Which of the following is NOT typically classified as one of the Neolithic cultures of the Indian subcontinent?
(A) Neolithic cultures of the Aravalli region
(B) Neolithic culture in Kashmir
(C) Eastern Neolithic sites
(D) Neolithic cultural development in the southern peninsular India

163. The 'Neolithic stage in China' refers to:
(A) a single, uniform culture that practiced wheat agriculture.
(B) a culture entirely derived from West Asian immigrants.
(C) traditions of millet in the north and rice in the south.
(D) a period characterized by the absolute absence of pottery.

164. Evidence for the incipient stages of food production during the Indian Mesolithic comes from various forms of data, but does NOT include:
(A) analysis of pollen cores.
(B) impressions of grains on pottery.
(C) the study of animal bones for signs of domestication.
(D) the presence of iron ploughs.

165. Consider the following statements about Mesolithic adaptations in India:
1. People exploited diverse environments from coastal areas to rock-shelters.
2. The toolkit was dominated by heavy-duty chopper tools.
3. There is evidence for the construction of temporary huts and wind-breaks.
4. Art in the form of rock paintings was a significant cultural expression.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 1, 3 and 4
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

166. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The site of Kili-Gul-Muhammad in Baluchistan has a pre-ceramic Neolithic level.
Statement II : The pottery found in the later levels at Kili-Gul-Muhammad shows similarities with that of other sites in the region.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

167. The Neolithic revolution in West Asia is best described as:
(A) a rapid military conquest.
(B) an event that only affected the elite members of society.
(C) a purely technological shift without social

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consequences.
(D) slow, gradual process of domestication over millennia.

168. The site of Mahagara in the Vindhyan region is particularly noted for what structural evidence?
(A) An enclosure interpreted as a cattle pen
(B) Ash mounds
(C) Dwelling pits
(D) Stone circles

169. Which of the following statements about Chirand is incorrect?
(A) It is located on the banks of the Ghaghara river in Bihar.
(B) It has a Neolithic-Chalcolithic cultural sequence.
(C) Its bone tool industry is rudimentary and sparse.
(D) It has yielded evidence of rice, wheat, and barley.

170. If an archaeologist finds a polished stone tool with a distinct tenon or 'shoulder' near the butt end in Assam, it is most likely a:
(A) North-Eastern shouldered celt.
(B) Southern Neolithic axe.
(C) Kashmiri harvester.
(D) Mesolithic microlith.

171. An 'alluvial plain site' in the context of Indian prehistory refers to a human settlement located:
(A) on top of a high mountain.
(B) in a desert sand dune area.
(C) beside a river in an coastal cave.
(D) on the flat, fertile land deposited by a river.

172. Which site, along with Pikhlihal and Sanganakallu, is a key Southern Neolithic site known for its ash-mound?
(A) Mehrgarh
(B) Uttnur
(C) Chirand
(D) Lahuradewa

173. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.

Assertion (A) : The Mesolithic tool kit, with its small and sharp microliths, was highly adaptable.
Reason (R) : These microliths could be used individually or combined in various ways to create different tools like knives, sickles, and projectile points suited for diverse tasks.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

174. Which statement accurately describes the significance of the Southern Neolithic site of Teklakota?
(A) It provides the earliest evidence of rice in India.
(B) It is a classic example of a dwelling-pit site like Burzahom.
(C) It is a single-component ash-mound site with no evidence of habitation.
(D) It shows habitation on granite hills, circular huts, and a rich lithic industry.

175. The primary distinction between Mesolithic and Neolithic subsistence strategies lies in the:
(A) procurement of food versus the production of food.
(B) use of stone tools versus metal tools.
(C) nomadic lifestyle versus a slightly less nomadic one.
(D) hunting of small game versus large game.

176. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic site of Nagarjunakonda is now submerged under the waters of a dam.
Statement II : Excavations before its submersion revealed important Neolithic and later historical remains.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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177. Which of the following is NOT a site belonging to the Neolithic culture in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region?
(A) Koldihwa
(B) Sanganakallu
(C) Mahagara
(D) Lahuradewa

178. The discovery of both handmade and wheel-made pottery in the later Neolithic levels at Mehrgarh indicates:
(A) technological development and increasing specialization in craft production.
(B) a rapid and permanent decline in overall pottery-making skills.
(C) the complete and total import of all pottery from other regions.
(D) handmade pottery was for ritual and wheel-made for domestic purposes.

179. Arrange the following Indian cultural phenomena in the correct chronological order of their appearance.
1. Mature Harappan Urbanism
2. Mesolithic rock art at Bhimbetka
3. Aceramic Neolithic at Mehrgarh
4. Southern Neolithic ash-mounds

Select the correct answer from the codes given below.
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 3, 2, 1, 4
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

180. Match the site in List I with its location/region in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Senuwar
Q. Selbalgiri
R. Kodekal
S. Koldihwa
List II: (Region)
1. Southern Peninsula (Karnataka)
2. North-Eastern Region (Meghalaya)
3. Eastern India (Bihar)
4. Central Vindhyan Region (Uttar Pradesh)

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

181. Which type of pottery is particularly associated with the Neolithic cultures of the North-Eastern region of India?
(A) Painted Grey Ware
(B) Northern Black Polished Ware
(C) Cord-impressed Ware
(D) Russet-coated Painted Ware

182. Which statement regarding the ecological adaptations of the Indian Mesolithic is incorrect?
(A) Coastal communities exploited marine resources.
(B) All Mesolithic communities practiced a uniform subsistence strategy regardless of location.
(C) People in the Gangetic plains adapted to a riverine environment.
(D) Inhabitants of the Vindhyas utilized the rich flora and fauna of the forested hills.

183. 'Regional variations in tool assemblages' during the Mesolithic means that:
(A) every single tool was unique.
(B) tools were made from the same material everywhere.
(C) all tool kits were identical, but used for different purposes.
(D) types of tools and their frequencies differed between geographical areas.

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184. The evidence from Kili-Gul-Muhammad is primarily important because it:
(A) provides a comparative sequence for the developments seen at the nearby site of Mehrgarh.
(B) represents a separate, independent origin of agriculture in Baluchistan.
(C) is the only Neolithic site found outside the Indian subcontinent.
(D) shows the earliest evidence of iron smelting in South Asia.

185. Consider the following statements regarding the Kashmir Neolithic:
1. The sites of Burzahom and Gufkral are key examples.
2. A characteristic feature is the presence of

dwelling pits.
3. The toolkit includes a rich variety of bone tools.
4. It is famous for large ash-mounds similar to the Southern Neolithic.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

186. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic site of Daojali Hading is located in the North Cachar hills of Assam.
Statement II : The site has yielded shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery, but no faunal or floral remains have survived.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

187. The European Mesolithic is chronologically placed between which two periods?
(A) Middle Palaeolithic and Upper Palaeolithic
(B) Neolithic and Bronze Age
(C) Bronze Age and Iron Age
(D) Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic

188. Which statement correctly describes food production in Neolithic West Asia?
(A) It was based on the domestication of maize and llamas.
(B) It was centered on the cultivation of wheat, barley, and pulses, and the herding of sheep, goats, and cattle.
(C) It began with the domestication of animals, followed much later by plants.
(D) It was limited to small garden plots and never supported large villages.

189. The shift from rectangular houses in PPNB (Pre-Pottery Neolithic B) back to more circular structures in the final PPNB/Pottery Neolithic in some West Asian sites might indicate:
(A) a complete loss of building knowledge.
(B) an environmental catastrophe that destroyed all rectangular houses.
(C) a change in social organization or household structure.
(D) an inability to produce rectangular mud-bricks.

190. Examine the following list of sites:
1. Pikhlihal
2. Chirand
3. Koldihwa
4. Kuchai
5. Sanganakallu

Which of the above are NOT located in the southern peninsular India?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 4 and 5
(D) 3 and 5 only

191. The development of a rich bone tool industry at a site like Chirand is best explained by:
(A) the site's location in an alluvial environment with abundant riverine and hunted animal resources.
(B) the complete absence of stone in the region.
(C) a religious proscription against the use of stone.
(D) the influence of Southern Neolithic cultures.

192. Which of the following is NOT an Eastern Neolithic site?
(A) Chirand
(B) Selbalgiri
(C) Chechar
(D) Senuwar

193. Which statement about the origins of the Neolithic in West Asia is incorrect?
(A) The wild ancestors of many key domesticates were present in the region.
(B) The process was a result of a single brilliant invention by one person.
(C) The climatic stability of the early Holocene played a role.
(D) It evolved out of the adaptations of late Epi-Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers.

194. The site of Sarutaru, known for its shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery, is located in which Indian state?
(A) Assam

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Kashmir region.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3
(C) 2, 3 and 4
(D) All of the above

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Mesolithic period in Europe represents a critical transitional phase between the Upper Palaeolithic and the Neolithic, characterized by profound ecological and cultural adaptations following the end of the Pleistocene epoch. As the ice sheets retreated and climates warmed, forests expanded, and the large herd animals of the Ice Age were replaced by smaller, more solitary woodland species. This environmental shift necessitated a corresponding change in subsistence strategies, with Mesolithic populations developing more diversified and flexible hunting, fishing, and gathering techniques. Technologically, this period is defined by the proliferation of microliths—small, geometrically shaped stone flakes that were hafted onto bone or wooden shafts to create composite tools like barbed arrows and harpoons. In West Asia, a parallel but distinct development known as the Epi-Palaeolithic occurred. This phase, exemplified by cultures like the Natufian, is not merely a chronological equivalent to the European Mesolithic but represents the direct precursor to the Neolithic revolution. Epi-Palaeolithic communities in the Levant exhibited increasing sedentism, intensive harvesting of wild cereals, and the development of sophisticated ground stone toolkits for processing plant foods, laying the socioeconomic groundwork for the eventual domestication of plants and animals.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. What is the primary factor that distinguishes the Epi-Palaeolithic of West Asia from the Mesolithic of Europe?

(A) The complete absence of microlithic technology.
(B) Its direct role as a precursor to food production.
(C) Its exclusive focus on marine resource exploitation.
(D) The development of large-scale megalithic structures.

252. According to the passage, the technological hallmark of the European Mesolithic is best described as:

(A) The widespread use of hafted microlithic components.
(B) The creation of large, bifacial hand-axes.
(C) The invention of pottery for food storage.
(D) The construction of monumental stone architecture.

253. The environmental changes at the beginning of the European Mesolithic led to which of the following adaptations?

(A) The abandonment of hunting in favour of exclusive foraging.
(B) The development of early agricultural practices.
(C) A shift in focus from large herd animals to smaller woodland species.
(D) A large-scale migration towards the retreating ice sheets.

254. Which cultural development is specifically associated with the Epi-Palaeolithic in West Asia as described in the source?

(A) The initial domestication of cattle and pigs.
(B) The first use of metal for tool production.
(C) The construction of fortified urban centres.
(D) A trend towards increased sedentism and intensive wild cereal harvesting.

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255. The passage implies that composite tools during the Mesolithic were created for what purpose?

(A) To facilitate the processing of domesticated grains.
(B) To serve as ritual objects in burial ceremonies.
(C) To enhance the efficiency of hunting and fishing activities.
(D) To function as currency in long-distance trade networks.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The transition to the Neolithic stage marks one of the most significant transformations in human history, fundamentally altering societal structures, subsistence strategies, and human-

architecture.

204. The Neolithic culture of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region is characterized by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) evidence for rice.
(B) large ash-mounds.
(C) cord-impressed pottery.
(D) wattle-and-daub circular huts.

205. Arrange the following types of sites from the Indian subcontinent in a broad chronological sequence of their first appearance.
1. Southern Neolithic Ash-mound Site
2. Mesolithic Sand-dune Site
3. Aceramic Neolithic Village (Mehrgarh)
4. Middle Palaeolithic Flake-tool Site

Select the correct answer from the code given below:
(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 2, 3, 1, 4

206. A 'coastal site' in Mesolithic studies refers to a location of human activity situated:
(A) on a high plateau.
(B) in a deep forest.
(C) beside a river in an coastal cave.
(D) near the sea, on beaches, estuaries, or lagoons.

207. In which region of India would you expect to find Neolithic sites like Sarutaru and Selbalgiri?
(A) The North-Eastern region
(B) The Southern Peninsula
(C) The Kashmir Valley
(D) Baluchistan

208. The Neolithic site of Sanganakallu is particularly known for:
(A) its location in the Ganga plains.
(B) being a major center for the manufacture of polished stone axes.
(C) its deep and well-preserved dwelling pits.
(D) having the earliest evidence of pottery in India.

209. The fundamental difference between the Epi-Palaeolithic of West Asia and the Mesolithic of Europe is primarily:
(A) based on chronology and geographical location, though both represent post-glacial adaptations.
(B) A and C are both correct and significant distinctions.
(C) that the Epi-Palaeolithic led to agriculture, whereas the European Mesolithic did not do so independently.
(D) that one used stone tools while the other did not.

210. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The economy of the Southern Neolithic communities was not solely pastoral.
Reason (R) : Archaeological evidence from sites like Hallur and Teklakota shows cultivation of millets and pulses alongside evidence for cattle herding.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

211. Examine the following statements about Neolithic sites and features:
1. Nagarjunakonda is a Southern Neolithic site.
2. Chechar is an Eastern Neolithic site.
3. Baidyapur is also an Eastern Neolithic site.
4. Selbalgiri is a Southern Neolithic ash-mound site.
5. Marakdola is a North-Eastern Neolithic site.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 5
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5
(C) 1, 2, and 4 only
(D) All of the above

212. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Indian Mesolithic is characterized by regional diversity in tool

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(C) symbolic value in religious rituals.
(D) efficiency and versatility in creating composite tools.

232. Early farming communities of Baluchistan, as evidenced by Mehrgarh, are known for all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) an initial reliance on rice cultivation.
(B) mud-brick architecture.
(C) cultivation of wheat and barley.
(D) domestication of zebu cattle.

233. Which statement about the site of Baidyapur in Odisha is incorrect?
(A) It is an Eastern Neolithic site.
(B) It has yielded a range of polished stone tools.
(C) It is primarily known for its extensive pit-dwelling complex.
(D) It is located in the Mayurbhanj district.

234. What kind of dwelling is a hallmark of the Neolithic culture of Kashmir?
(A) Pit-dwellings
(B) Multi-storied brick houses
(C) Circular stone houses
(D) Wattle-and-daub huts

235. Examine the following list of sites:
1. Selbalgiri
2. Daojali Hading
3. Marakdola
4. Sarutaru
5. Hallur

Which of the above are Neolithic sites located in the North-Eastern region of India?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 2 and 4 only

236. The strategic location of Southern Neolithic settlements on hilltops provided all of the following advantages EXCEPT:
(A) good pastureland for cattle on the terraces.
(B) easy access to deep alluvial soil for rice cultivation.
(C) a commanding view of the surrounding plains.
(D) natural defense against predators and rival groups.

237. Which statement accurately describes the cultural sequence at Senuwar?
(A) It is a single-period Mesolithic site.
(B) It begins with an Iron Age culture.
(C) It shows a transition from Neolithic to Chalcolithic.
(D) It has a Palaeolithic level at its base.

238. The evidence from sites like Koldihwa, Mahagara, and especially Lahuradewa challenges the older notion that:
(A) rice was first domesticated in China.
(B) Neolithic people did not eat rice.
(C) wheat was the first crop grown in the Ganga valley.
(D) rice cultivation in India derived from Southeast Asia.

239. The exceptional preservation of bone tools at Chirand is due to the:
(A) calcareous nature of the alluvial soil.
(B) dry desert climate of the region.
(C) practice of burying tools in ash pits.
(D) absence of any bacterial activity.

240. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : Ash-mounds in Southern India are considered a unique archaeological feature of the Neolithic period.
Reason (R) : These mounds, formed by the burning of cow dung, directly reflect the great importance of cattle in the economy and rituals of the Southern Neolithic people.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

241. A 'coastal site' is an example of a specific pattern of ecological adaptation associated with which prehistoric period in India?
(A) Lower Palaeolithic
(B) Mesolithic

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climate of the Deccan plateau.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

222. Which site is an example of an Eastern Neolithic site located in modern-day Bihar?
(A) Kuchai
(B) Baidyapur
(C) Sarutaru
(D) Senuwar

223. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The term 'incipient food production' is used for the late Mesolithic phase in some parts of India.
Reason (R) : While not full-fledged agriculture, evidence like intensive wild grain collection suggests a move towards food production.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

224. Which of the following pairs of a site and its state/UT is incorrectly matched?
(A) Chirand - Bihar
(B) Daojali Hading - Uttar Pradesh
(C) Sanganakallu - Karnataka
(D) Burzahom - Jammu & Kashmir

225. A stratified site showing a lower level with only microliths and an upper level with polished celts, coarse pottery, and animal bones would represent a transition from:
(A) Palaeolithic to Mesolithic.
(B) Mesolithic to Neolithic.
(C) Neolithic to Chalcolithic.
(D) Chalcolithic to Iron Age.

226. The Neolithic stage in West Asia is defined by the emergence of:
(A) farming villages and domesticated plants and animals.
(B) urban civilization and writing.
(C) blade and burin industries.
(D) iron metallurgy and coinage.

227. The Mesolithic culture of the Indian subcontinent is broadly contemporary with which geological epoch?
(A) Pleistocene
(B) Pliocene
(C) Holocene
(D) Miocene

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228. What are the two primary domesticated cereals that formed the basis of the Neolithic revolution in West Asia?
(A) Rice and Millet
(B) Maize and Beans
(C) Sorghum and Rye
(D) Wheat and Barley

229. Consider the following items:
1. Ground stone celt
2. Handmade pottery
3. Microlithic trapeze
4. Domestication of Ragi

Which of these are characteristic features of the Southern Neolithic culture?
(A) 1, 2 and 4
(B) 1, 3 and 4
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

230. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The site of Pikhlihal in Karnataka has evidence of a Neolithic cattle pen.
Statement II : The interpretation is based on massive post-holes and stockades found within the ash-mound area.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

231. The main advantage of microlithic technology was its:
(A) suitability for making large, heavy-duty tools.
(B) use in the construction of megalithic monuments.

assemblages.
Statement II : This diversity is a result of adaptations to different ecological niches and the availability of various types of raw materials.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

213. Which of the following statements about Neolithic food production is incorrect?
(A) It involved the domestication of both plants and animals.
(B) It led to increased sedentism and population growth.
(C) It began simultaneously with identical species all over the world.
(D) It represents a fundamental shift in the human-environment relationship.

214. The site of Lahuradewa, significant for its early dates for rice, is located in the state of:
(A) Bihar
(B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Madhya Pradesh
(D) Rajasthan

215. The presence of a large number of unfinished polished stone axes, debitage, and hammerstones at a site like Sanganakallu indicates that it was a:
(A) ritual center.
(B) burial ground.
(C) temporary hunting camp.
(D) manufacturing center or 'factory site'.

216. The characteristic features of the Neolithic stage include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) exclusive reliance on big-game hunting.
(B) food production.
(C) ground and polished stone tools.
(D) pottery making.

217. Match the Neolithic culture in List I with its characteristic tool/feature in List II.
List I: (Neolithic Culture)
P. Kashmir Neolithic
Q. Eastern Neolithic (Chirand)
R. North-Eastern Neolithic
S. Southern Neolithic
List II: (Tool/Feature)
1. Shouldered Celt
2. Bone Harpoon
3. Ash-mound
4. Antler Pick-axe
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

218. Which of the following statements about the site of Kodekal is correct?
(A) It is an ash-mound site located in the Shorapur doab of Karnataka.
(B) It is a major Neolithic site in the Kashmir Valley.
(C) It is famous for its extensive Mesolithic rock paintings.
(D) It has yielded the earliest evidence of wheat cultivation in India.

219. The transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic in India was:
(A) a uniform event that occurred at the same time and in the same way across the subcontinent.
(B) driven entirely by migration from West Asia, with no indigenous development.
(C) marked by the immediate and complete disappearance of microlithic technology.
(D) complex process with varied timelines and trajectories across regions.

220. The vitrification of dung in Southern Neolithic ash-mounds is the result of:
(A) natural geological processes.
(B) intense heat generated by periodic burning of accumulated dung.
(C) accidental house fires.
(D) the use of dung as a flux in early metal smelting.

221. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic cultures of the southern peninsula show evidence of growing millets like Ragi.
Statement II : Millets are hardy, drought-resistant crops well-suited to the semi-arid

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(C) Middle Palaeolithic
(D) Chalcolithic

242. Which of the following correctly describes the contribution of the site Hallur?
(A) It shows an overlap phase between the Neolithic and the Iron Age.
(B) It provides the earliest evidence of an aceramic Neolithic in South India.
(C) It is a key site for understanding the North-Eastern Neolithic.
(D) It is famous for its Mesolithic rock art.

243. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : The Neolithic revolution was a global event.
Statement II : However, it occurred independently at different times in different parts of the world with different sets of domesticates.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

244. Which of the following is NOT an Eastern Neolithic site?
(A) Chirand
(B) Chechar
(C) Senuwar
(D) Teklakota

245. Match the site in List I with its geographical region in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Uttnur
Q. Lahuradewa
R. Daojali Hading
S. Mehrgarh
List II: (Region)
1. Baluchistan
2. North-East India
3. Central Ganga Plain
4. Southern Peninsula
Choose the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

246. A Neolithic burial in Kashmir containing the skeleton of a human and a dog together implies:
(A) That dogs were a primary food source.
(B) A ritualistic or companionate relationship between humans and animals.
(C) An accidental co-burial with no cultural meaning.
(D) That the dog was a pest in the settlement.

247. The site of Selbalgiri is an example of the Neolithic culture of which region?
(A) Southern Peninsular India
(B) Kashmir
(C) Vindhyan Region
(D) North-Eastern Region

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248. The primary evidence used to identify ash-mound sites as burnt cattle pens is:
(A) The chemical composition of the vitrified material being consistent with burnt cow dung.
(B) The oral traditions of local communities.
(C) The discovery of written texts describing the practice.
(D) The shape of the mounds resembling modern cattle pens.

249. Which statement is incorrect regarding the diverse ecological adaptations of the Indian Mesolithic?
(A) Sites are found on sand dunes in western India.
(B) Sites are found in rock-shelters in central India.
(C) Sites are exclusively found in one single type of environment.
(D) Sites are found on alluvial plains in the Ganga valley.

250. Consider the following statements regarding key Indian archaeological sites:
1. Koldihwa and Mahagara are in the Vindhyan region.
2. Pikhlihal and Uttnur are in the Southern peninsular region.
3. Chirand and Senuwar are in the Eastern region.
4. Sarutaru and Daojali Hading are in the

(B) Bihar
(C) Odisha
(D) Meghalaya

195. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : Micro-blade technology allowed for the economical use of high-quality raw material.
Reason (R) : From a single prepared core, a large number of sharp, standardized blades could be produced, maximizing the utility of a small piece of chert or chalcedony.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

196. The term 'ash-mound sites' specifically refers to a unique feature of the Neolithic period in which region of India?
(A) Kashmir
(B) The North-East
(C) The Ganga Valley
(D) The Southern Peninsula

197. The archaeological evidence from Mehrgarh, Period I (aceramic Neolithic) is most significant for demonstrating that:
(A) pottery is essential for a sedentary lifestyle.
(B) long-distance trade was the primary economic activity.
(C) settled agricultural life could exist before pottery.
(D) animal domestication happened much later than agriculture.

198. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.
Statement I : Polished stone tools are a hallmark of the Neolithic period.
Statement II : The process of grinding and polishing made the tools stronger, more durable, and more effective for tasks like clearing forests.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

199. Which of the following pairs of a site and its significance is correctly matched?
(A) Lahuradewa - Earliest ash-mound
(B) Uttnur - Pit-dwellings
(C) Mahagara - Aceramic Neolithic
(D) Daojali Hading - Cord-marked pottery

200. Consider the following statements about the Indian Mesolithic period:
1. It is characterized by the use of microliths.
2. Sites are distributed in diverse ecological zones.
3. Rock art is a significant cultural aspect of this period.
4. All Mesolithic populations practiced settled agriculture.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

201. The site of Marakdola, mentioned as a Neolithic site of the North-Eastern region, is located in:
(A) Nagaland
(B) Manipur
(C) Assam
(D) Mizoram

202. The presence of both wild and domesticated animal bones at an early Neolithic site suggests:
(A) hunting continued to be an important supplementary economic activity.
(B) a complete failure of the domestication process.
(C) a ritual practice of mixing bones.
(D) that the site was occupied by two different groups simultaneously.

203. Which statement regarding the Southern Neolithic site of Pikhlihal is incorrect?
(A) It is located in Karnataka.
(B) It has provided evidence of both a settlement area and an ash-mound.
(C) The excavator, F.R. Allchin, interpreted the ash-mounds as cattle pens.
(D) The site is famous for its unique pit-dwelling

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environment interactions through the advent of food production. This development, which occurred independently in various parts of the world, involved the domestication of plants and animals, leading to the establishment of agricultural economies. In West Asia, particularly within the Fertile Crescent, this process began around 10,000 BCE with the cultivation of cereals like wheat and barley and the domestication of animals such as goats, sheep, and cattle. This agricultural surplus facilitated the growth of permanent settlements, social stratification, and new technologies like pottery and polished stone tools (celts). A parallel, yet distinct, trajectory of Neolithic development is observed in China. In the Yellow River valley, the primary domesticate was millet, while in the Yangtze River valley, rice cultivation became the cornerstone of the Neolithic economy. These developments in China, like those in West Asia, were accompanied by the emergence of settled village life, distinctive ceramic traditions such as painted pottery, and a sophisticated toolkit adapted to agricultural tasks. The Neolithic stage, therefore, was not a monolithic event but a complex process of regional innovations that replaced foraging with farming as the primary mode of subsistence.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What does the passage identify as the fundamental change associated with the Neolithic stage?
(A) The migration of human populations across continents.
(B) The shift from a foraging to a food-producing economy.
(C) The first use of fire for cooking and warmth.
(D) The development of symbolic cave art.

257. According to the source, what were the primary cereal domesticates in West Asia and China, respectively?
(A) Rice in West Asia and millet in China.
(B) Maize in West Asia and wheat in China.
(C) Millet in West Asia and barley in China.
(D) Wheat and barley in West Asia; millet and rice in China.

258. The passage suggests that the development of agriculture in West Asia directly facilitated which of the following?
(A) The growth of permanent settlements and social complexity.
(B) The continuation of a nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle.
(C) The decline of tool-making technologies.
(D) The immediate abandonment of all hunting activities.

259. Which statement accurately reflects the nature of the Neolithic transition as described in the source?
(A) It was a singular event that spread from a single origin point.
(B) It was a uniform process with the same domesticates worldwide.
(C) It was a complex and regionally varied process of independent innovation.
(D) It was primarily characterized by the development of metal tools.

260. The Neolithic toolkit mentioned in the passage included which characteristic new technology?
(A) Polished stone tools known as celts.
(B) Microlithic blades used for hunting.
(C) Harpoons made from animal bone.
(D) Chopper-chopping tools from the Oldowan tradition.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Mesolithic culture of the Indian subcontinent represents a dynamic period of adaptation and technological innovation, positioned chronologically between the Palaeolithic and the rise of farming communities. A defining characteristic of this phase is its microlithic industry, where micro-blade technology was employed to produce small, geometric, and non-geometric stone tools. These microliths, often made from fine-grained materials like chert, chalcedony, and quartz, were not used in isolation but were hafted to create composite tools, enhancing the efficiency of hunting and gathering. Significant regional variations in tool assemblages are evident across the subcontinent, reflecting adaptations to diverse ecological niches and the availability of specific raw materials. For instance, assemblages

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272. The term aceramic Neolithic as applied to the earliest levels of Mehrgarh refers to a period:
(A) Before the development of stone tools.
(B) When agriculture and sedentism existed without the use of pottery.
(C) Characterized by the exclusive use of metal artifacts.
(D) Lacking any evidence of permanent settlement structures.

273. According to the passage, the economy of the early farming communities in Baluchistan was based on:
(A) Maritime trade and fishing.
(B) Nomadic hunting of large game.
(C) The exclusive cultivation of rice and millet.
(D) The cultivation of wheat and barley and the herding of livestock.

274. The faunal evidence from Mehrgarh indicates a significant shift from:
(A) Hunting wild animals to managing domesticated livestock.
(B) Relying on domesticated animals to hunting wild ones.
(C) Herding sheep and goats to herding only cattle.
(D) An animal-based diet to a purely plant-based one.

275. Both Mehrgarh and Kili-Gul-Muhammad are important because they provide evidence for:
(A) The advanced metallurgy of the Chalcolithic period.
(B) The continuity of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer traditions.
(C) The indigenous origins of food production in South Asia.
(D) The influence of Harappan civilization on early villages.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Neolithic culture in the Kashmir valley exhibits a unique set of characteristics, reflecting a distinct adaptation to its high-altitude, temperate environment. This regional variant of the Neolithic, well-documented at sites like Burzahom and Gufkral, is notably different from the Neolithic cultures found in other parts of the subcontinent. One of the most distinctive features is the presence of dwelling pits. These subterranean and semi-subterranean pits, often circular or oval in shape, were dug into the soft Karewa soil and likely provided insulation against the harsh cold of the Kashmiri winters. Some pits feature post-holes around the perimeter, suggesting a superstructure of thatch or hides supported by a wooden framework. Another key aspect of the Kashmir Neolithic is the extensive use of bone and antler tools. The tool assemblage includes a wide variety of implements such as harpoons, needles, awls, and scrapers, indicating a proficiency in working with bone and a subsistence economy that likely included hunting and fishing alongside agriculture. The ceramic industry is also distinct, with handmade pottery that is often coarse, grey, and mat-impressed in its early phases. The combination of pit-dwellings, a profuse bone tool industry, and specific ceramic styles marks the Kashmir Neolithic as a highly localized and specialized cultural development.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What is described as one of the most distinctive features of the Kashmir Neolithic culture?
(A) The practice of living in subterranean and semi-subterranean dwelling pits.
(B) The construction of large, multi-roomed brick houses.
(C) The creation of monumental ash mounds from cattle dung.
(D) The exclusive use of microlithic stone tools.

277. The use of dwelling pits in the Kashmir Neolithic is interpreted as an adaptation to:
(A) The need for defense against invaders.
(B) The frequent flooding in the region.
(C) The availability of extensive cave systems.
(D) The cold climatic conditions of the valley.

278. The tool assemblage of the Kashmir Neolithic is particularly noted for its:
(A) Paucity of any kind of manufactured tools.
(B) Extensive and varied collection of bone and antler implements.
(C) Reliance on imported metal tools from other regions.
(D) Similarity to the toolkits of the Southern Neolithic.

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which depicts scenes of daily life, hunting, and social activities, providing a unique window into the Mesolithic worldview and lifeways.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. The wide distribution of Mesolithic sites across different geographical settings in India primarily demonstrates:
(A) The uniformity of Mesolithic culture across the subcontinent.
(B) The adaptive flexibility of Mesolithic populations to diverse ecologies.
(C) The singular origin of all Mesolithic people from the Ganga valley.
(D) The exclusive reliance of Mesolithic communities on agriculture.

267. What specific type of archaeological feature is mentioned as being characteristic of coastal Mesolithic sites?
(A) Megalithic tombs.
(B) Shell middens.
(C) Burnt brick structures.
(D) Ash mounds.

268. Rock-shelter sites in Central India are particularly valuable for understanding the Mesolithic period because they provide:
(A) Both occupation deposits and rock art.
(B) Evidence of early metal smelting.
(C) The only evidence of Mesolithic tool-making.
(D) The earliest examples of written scripts.

269. The presence of Mesolithic sites near horseshoe lakes in the Gangetic plains suggests an exploitation of what kind of resources?
(A) Primarily mineral resources for tool-making.
(B) Exclusively large desert animals.
(C) Rich aquatic and riverine resources.
(D) Agricultural crops like wheat and barley.

270. Based on the passage, the occupation of sand-dune sites by Mesolithic populations signifies their ability to:
(A) Practice large-scale irrigation agriculture.
(B) Build permanent, monumental structures.
(C) Domesticate animals for pastoralism.
(D) Survive in arid environments with limited water.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The region of Baluchistan in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent holds a pivotal position in the study of early farming communities. Archaeological investigations at sites like Mehrgarh and Kili-Gul-Muhammad have unveiled a long and continuous sequence of occupation that documents the transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a settled, agro-pastoral economy. Mehrgarh, in particular, provides an exceptional record, with its earliest levels (aceramic Neolithic) dating back to circa 7000 BCE. These early phases are characterized by the presence of mud-brick houses, the cultivation of domesticated wheat and barley, and the herding of cattle, sheep, and goats, even before the widespread use of pottery. The faunal evidence from Mehrgarh is especially significant, showing a gradual shift from the hunting of wild animals to a reliance on managed, domesticated livestock. Kili-Gul-Muhammad, though smaller in scale, corroborates this pattern of early village life based on a mixed economy. The material culture of these early farming communities also included sophisticated bone tools, stone blades, grinding stones, and personal ornaments, indicating a complex and established sedentary society. These Baluchistan sites are thus crucial for understanding the indigenous origins of the Neolithic transition in South Asia, demonstrating a deep-rooted history of food production long before the rise of the Harappan civilization.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is the primary significance of the site of Mehrgarh for understanding the Neolithic period in South Asia?
(A) It shows the earliest use of iron tools in the subcontinent.
(B) It is the largest known rock-shelter site with Mesolithic art.
(C) It provides a continuous record of the transition to an agro-pastoral economy.
(D) It documents the first instance of a fully urban civilization.

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from arid zones might differ from those found in alluvial plains or coastal regions. Furthermore, the Indian Mesolithic provides crucial evidence for the incipient stages of food production. While primarily a hunting-gathering economy, certain sites show patterns of intensive resource management, selective hunting, and possibly rudimentary horticulture or manipulation of wild plant species. This suggests a gradual and complex transition towards agriculture, rather than an abrupt Neolithic Revolution being imposed. This phase thus bridges the gap between purely extractive economies and the subsequent productive economies of the Neolithic.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What is described as the defining technological feature of the Indian Mesolithic?
(A) The production of large Acheulean hand-axes.
(B) The development of wheel-made pottery.
(C) The construction of megalithic burial sites.
(D) The use of micro-blade technology to create microliths.

262. The passage explains that regional variations in Mesolithic tool assemblages across the Indian subcontinent are a result of:
(A) Different chronological periods of occupation.
(B) Adaptations to different ecological zones and raw materials.
(C) The influence of distinct external cultures.
(D) Varying levels of cognitive development in populations.

263. According to the source, what does the evidence for incipient stages of food production during the Indian Mesolithic imply?
(A) A complete and sudden shift to an agricultural economy.
(B) The widespread domestication of cattle and wheat.
(C) A gradual process leading towards a food-producing economy.
(D) The total abandonment of hunting and gathering practices.

264. Microliths from the Indian Mesolithic period were primarily used for what purpose?
(A) As standalone tools for heavy-duty chopping.
(B) As decorative items for personal adornment.
(C) As grinding stones for processing grains.
(D) As components hafted onto shafts to form composite tools.

265. The passage suggests that the economy of the Indian Mesolithic was:
(A) Primarily based on hunting-gathering with early signs of resource management.
(B) Predominantly agricultural with some hunting.
(C) Exclusively based on marine fishing.
(D) Centered around long-distance trade of metal goods.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

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The distribution of Mesolithic sites across the Indian subcontinent reveals a remarkable pattern of ecological adaptation, with human groups successfully colonizing and exploiting a wide array of environmental niches. The archaeological evidence demonstrates a presence in diverse geographical settings, indicating the flexibility and resilience of Mesolithic subsistence strategies. Sites are found in the alluvial plains of the Ganga valley, where communities adapted to a riverine environment. Along horseshoe lakes, such as those in the Gangetic plains, people exploited rich aquatic resources alongside terrestrial game. Coastal sites, found along both the eastern and western seaboards, indicate a reliance on marine and estuarine resources, with shell middens being a common feature. In the arid and semi-arid regions of western India, Mesolithic populations occupied sand-dune sites, adapting to a challenging environment with ephemeral water sources. Further inland, the plateaus of central India and the Deccan provided a stable resource base, with numerous sites located in strategic proximity to raw material sources and water bodies. Finally, rock-shelter sites, particularly concentrated in the Vindhyan and Kaimur ranges of Central India, offer a wealth of information, not only through their stratified occupation deposits but also through their vibrant rock art,

279. The passage suggests that the subsistence economy of the Kashmir Neolithic included which of the following?
(A) Only gathering of wild plants.
(B) Exclusive reliance on pastoralism.
(C) A combination of hunting, fishing, and agriculture.
(D) Long-distance maritime trade.

280. The unique characteristics of the Kashmir Neolithic, such as pit-dwellings and a bone tool industry, indicate that it was:
(A) A direct offshoot of the Harappan Civilization.
(B) Identical to the Neolithic cultures of the Ganga valley.
(C) A short-lived and unsuccessful cultural experiment.
(D) A highly localized and specialized cultural adaptation.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Neolithic cultures of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region hold a significant place in South Asian archaeology, particularly for their contribution to the history of rice cultivation. Key sites such as Koldihwa, Mahagara, and Lahuradewa have provided crucial evidence for the emergence of settled agricultural life in this fertile zone. Traditionally, Koldihwa was cited for its early evidence of domesticated rice, found embedded in pottery. However, more recent and securely dated findings from Lahuradewa in the Sant Kabir Nagar district have pushed back the antiquity of rice use in the Ganga plains to as early as the 7th millennium BCE. At these sites, archaeologists have uncovered remains of circular or oval-shaped huts with wattle-and-daub walls, indicating settled village life. The material culture includes a range of Neolithic implements such as polished stone celts, microliths, and bone tools. A characteristic feature of the ceramic industry is the prevalence of cord-impressed pottery. Mahagara is particularly noted for the discovery of a large cattle pen, suggesting the importance of animal husbandry, specifically cattle-herding, alongside agriculture. The combined evidence from these sites paints a picture of a well-established Neolithic economy based on rice agriculture and animal domestication, forming a distinct cultural complex in the heart of the subcontinent.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. The Neolithic sites in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region are of particular importance for providing early evidence of:
(A) Rice cultivation and use.
(B) Wheat and barley cultivation.
(C) The use of iron technology.
(D) The construction of urban centres.

282. According to recent findings mentioned in the passage, which site has provided the earliest evidence for the use of rice in the Ganga plains?
(A) Koldihwa.
(B) Lahuradewa.
(C) Mahagara.
(D) Chirand.

283. What type of dwelling structures are characteristic of the Neolithic villages in this region?
(A) Subterranean pits.
(B) Wattle-and-daub huts.
(C) Multi-storeyed brick buildings.
(D) Large stone-cut caves.

284. The site of Mahagara is specifically noted for the discovery of evidence related to:
(A) A large cattle pen, indicating animal husbandry.
(B) An extensive bone tool manufacturing workshop.
(C) A dockyard for riverine trade.
(D) A collection of painted rock art.

285. A characteristic feature of the ceramic industry in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan Neolithic is the prevalence of:
(A) Polished black and red ware.
(B) Harappan-style painted pottery.
(C) Cord-impressed pottery.
(D) Coarse, mat-impressed ware.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Neolithic phase in Eastern India is

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(D) They resulted from the periodic burning of cattle dung in enclosures.

297. The economy of the Southern Neolithic is best described as:
(A) Agro-pastoral, with a strong emphasis on cattle herding.
(B) Primarily maritime, based on fishing and trade.
(C) Exclusively agricultural, focused on rice cultivation.
(D) Hunter-gatherer, with no evidence of domestication.

298. The agricultural system of the Southern Neolithic was particularly adapted to the region's semi-arid climate through the cultivation of:
(A) Wheat and barley.
(B) Millets and pulses.
(C) Rice and jute.
(D) Sugarcane and cotton.

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299. Neolithic settlements in southern India, such as Sanganakallu and Teklakota, were typically located where?
(A) In subterranean pits dug into the soil.
(B) On the tops of granite hills or plateaus.
(C) Along the major river banks in the floodplain.
(D) Deep inside dense tropical forests.

300. The later phases of the Southern Neolithic, as evidenced at Hallur and Nagarjunakonda, are marked by what significant technological development?
(A) The introduction and rudimentary use of metal.
(B) The first appearance of polished stone axes.
(C) The complete abandonment of pottery.
(D) The invention of the potter's wheel.

mullers, and the overall artifact assemblage strongly implies a food-producing economy, likely supplemented by extensive hunting and gathering. The unique combination of shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery firmly establishes the North-Eastern region as a separate and important zone of Neolithic cultural development.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. A key diagnostic tool type of the North-Eastern Indian Neolithic that suggests affiliations with Southeast Asia is the:
(A) Microlithic lunate.
(B) Acheulean hand-axe.
(C) Shouldered celt.
(D) Bone harpoon.

292. Which of the following is described as a characteristic feature of the pottery from sites like Daojali Hading?
(A) Handmade, cord-marked pottery.
(B) Fine, wheel-made ware with painted designs.
(C) Black-and-red ware.
(D) Glazed and lustrous ceramics.

293. The cultural traits of the North-Eastern Neolithic, such as shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery, point towards:
(A) A strong connection with the Harappan Civilization.
(B) An isolated development with no external contacts.
(C) A continuation of Palaeolithic traditions.
(D) Potential cultural links with Southeast Asia.

294. Although direct evidence for plant cultivation is often sparse in the North-Eastern Neolithic, what archaeological finds imply a food-producing economy?
(A) The presence of iron ploughshares.
(B) The abundance of grinding stones and mullers.
(C) The discovery of written agricultural records.
(D) The remains of large irrigation canals.

295. Sites like Sarutaru, Daojali Hading, and Selbalgiri are significant because they:
(A) Represent the earliest urban centres in India.
(B) Contain the only evidence of Neolithic pit-dwellings.
(C) Define a distinct zone of Neolithic culture in North-East India.
(D) Show a complete absence of stone tools.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The development of Neolithic culture in southern peninsular India followed a unique trajectory, primarily characterized by an agro-pastoral economy with a strong emphasis on cattle herding. A distinctive and enigmatic feature of this Southern Neolithic is the presence of 'Ash-mounds'. These large accumulations of vitrified ash and burnt cattle dung are found at numerous sites, including Utnur, Pikhlihal, and Kodekal. The prevailing interpretation is that these mounds resulted from the seasonal and periodic burning of accumulated cattle dung within stockades or pens, pointing to the central role of cattle in the economy and possibly in ritual activities. The subsistence base also included agriculture, with the cultivation of millets and pulses being particularly important, crops well-suited to the semi-arid climate of the Deccan plateau. The settlements, such as those at Sanganakallu, Teklakota, and Hallur, were typically located on the tops of granite hills or plateaus, providing a strategic advantage. The material culture included polished stone axes, microlithic blades, and a distinctive handmade pottery, often with a burnished grey or brown surface. Later phases of the Southern Neolithic, as seen at sites like Hallur and Nagarjunakonda, show the introduction of rudimentary metal use, marking the transition to the Chalcolithic phase.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What is the most widely accepted interpretation of the 'Ash-mounds' found at Southern Neolithic sites like Utnur?
(A) They are the remains of large-scale funeral pyres.
(B) They are the by-products of early metal-smelting activities.
(C) They are natural geological formations mistaken for archaeological sites.

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8. (A) hunting smaller and faster-moving forest or aquatic fauna.

The invention of microliths allowed for the creation of lightweight, aerodynamic projectiles such as barbed arrows and harpoons. This technological advancement was an adaptation to the changing environment of the Holocene, where large Pleistocene mammals were replaced by smaller, swifter woodland animals and abundant aquatic life. These composite tools provided the necessary precision and range to effectively hunt faster prey, which was essential for subsistence in dense forest and riverine settings.

9. (C) There was a universal and immediate shift to agriculture.

The transition from the Palaeolithic to the Mesolithic was triggered by major climatic changes at the end of the Pleistocene. Rising sea levels altered coastlines, and megafauna like mammoths became extinct. However, this period did not witness a universal or immediate shift to agriculture. Instead, human groups across the globe adopted diverse foraging strategies. The transition to food production was a slow, non-linear process that occurred much later in the Neolithic.

10. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The development of sedentary life in West Asia preceded the actual domestication of plants and animals. Rich environments allowed the Natufian people to remain in one location for long periods by intensively harvesting wild grains and hunting gazelles. This settled lifestyle created the social and economic conditions necessary for the eventual transition to farming. Consequently, the availability of abundant and predictable natural resources explains the rise of early permanent hunter-gatherer communities.

11. (D) Cultivation of plants and domestication of animals.

The Neolithic period is fundamentally defined by the transition from a foraging lifestyle to food production. This shift involved the active cultivation of specific plant species and the controlled breeding of animals. By managing these resources, human communities could secure a more reliable food supply, which led to significant changes in social structure, permanent settlements, and population growth. This transformation in subsistence strategy distinguishes the Neolithic from all preceding prehistoric stages.

12. (B) West Asia - Barley

Archaeological evidence confirms that West Asia was a primary center for the domestication of specific cereal crops. Barley and wheat were the first grains to be cultivated in the Fertile Crescent during the early Neolithic. In contrast, rice was independently domesticated in the Yangtze River valley of China, while millet was the staple crop of northern China. These regional variations reflect the local availability of wild ancestors and specific environmental conditions.

13. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The Neolithic in West Asia is archaeologically divided into Pre-Pottery and Pottery phases based on the presence of ceramic technology. This indicates that major developments like permanent village life and agriculture occurred long before the invention of pottery. Early farming communities flourished in an aceramic stage, using containers made of stone, wood, or leather. Therefore, the absence of pottery did not hinder the emergence of settled, food-producing societies in the region.

14. (D) commitment to agricultural lands and food production.

The emergence of permanent villages in West Asia was primarily driven by the requirements of a food-producing economy. Agriculture necessitates long-term presence in a specific location to sow, protect, and harvest crops. Unlike the mobile lifestyle of hunter-gatherers, farmers became tied to their cultivated fields and stored surpluses. This economic commitment to the land resulted in the development of durable architecture and the establishment of stable, year-round settlements across the region.

15. (C) 1, 2 and 3

Neolithic developments in China featured distinct regional agricultural traditions. In the northern Yellow River valley, millet was the primary crop, while rice cultivation dominated

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ANSWER

1. (B) adaptation by hunter-gatherers to post-glacial environments.

   The Mesolithic period in Europe represents a crucial era of cultural and technological adjustment following the retreat of the Pleistocene glaciers. As the climate warmed, the landscape transformed from tundra to temperate forests, causing the extinction or migration of megafauna. Inhabitants developed new strategies to exploit diverse ecological niches, including forests, coasts, and wetlands, while maintaining a mobile hunter-gatherer lifestyle suited to these changing environmental conditions.

2. (A) West Asia

   In the archaeological terminology of the Levant and the Near East, the term Epi-Palaeolithic is preferred to describe the final hunter-gatherer stage. This period follows the Upper Palaeolithic and precedes the Neolithic transition. It is characterized by specialized microlithic toolkits and increasing sedentism in areas rich in wild cereals and game. This nomenclature highlights the direct cultural continuity from late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers into early Holocene foragers.

3. (C) It saw the development of composite tools using microliths.

   A defining technological innovation of the European Mesolithic was the production of microliths, which are tiny, standardized stone blades. These were designed to be embedded into bone or wooden shafts to create highly effective composite tools like harpoons, sickles, and barbed arrows. This technological shift allowed for greater precision and efficiency in hunting smaller, faster woodland game and processing diverse plant and aquatic resources available during the Holocene.

4. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

   Epi-Palaeolithic communities in West Asia, particularly the Natufians, began establishing semi-permanent settlements well before the full adoption of agriculture. This transition was deeply linked to the abundant availability of wild cereals and predictable migration patterns of gazelles. Contrary to the idea of independence from environmental factors, the shift toward sedentism was a strategic response to the localized concentration of dependable floral and faunal resources during the early Holocene.

5. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

   European Mesolithic cultures are identified by distinct regional traditions linked to specific ecological zones. The Maglemosian culture thrived in northern Europe, particularly Denmark and Germany. In southern France and the Pyrenees, the Azilian culture succeeded the Magdalenian tradition. The Tardenoisian is associated with microlithic industries in France and Belgium, while the Asturian represents a specialized coastal adaptation in northern Spain, characterized by picks used for gathering various types of shellfish.

6. (B) exploiting a wider range of resources like plants, birds, and aquatic life.

   The broad-spectrum revolution involves a shift from hunting large mammals to exploiting a diverse range of plant and animal resources. This strategy emerged at the end of the Pleistocene as climatic shifts altered habitats. Instead of specializing in a few high-risk prey species, Mesolithic populations expanded their diet to include small game, birds, fish, shellfish, and various wild plants, increasing the overall carrying capacity of their respective territories.

7. (D) the first use of polished stone axes.

   Developments during the Epi-Palaeolithic of West Asia included the intensification of wild cereal collection and the creation of microlithic toolkits. In resource-rich regions, these hunter-gatherer groups exhibited increased sedentism, living in semi-permanent villages. However, the use of polished stone axes is a defining characteristic of the subsequent Neolithic period. Such ground stone technology was not a feature of the Epi-Palaeolithic tool industry, which relied on knapped stone.

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represented by a cluster of important sites that demonstrate a flourishing and well-established village-based agricultural economy. Sites like Chirand in Bihar, located on the northern bank of the Ganga, and Chechar, Senuwar, Kuchai, and Baidyapur reveal a complex material culture and a broad subsistence base. Chirand is particularly remarkable for its exceptionally rich and diverse bone tool industry, which is unparalleled in the Indian Neolithic context. The tools, made from antler and bone, include a vast array of types such as needles, scrapers, borers, and ornaments, suggesting advanced craftsmanship. The agricultural economy of these eastern sites was not limited to a single crop; evidence from Senuwar, for example, points to the cultivation of rice, barley, wheat, and various pulses, indicating a sophisticated multi-cropping system. This broad agricultural base would have provided a secure and stable food supply, supporting a sedentary lifestyle. The settlement at Chirand consisted of circular wattle-and-daub houses with post-holes and hearths. The ceramic assemblage is also varied, including red ware, grey ware, and black-and-red ware. Together, these Eastern Neolithic sites illustrate a mature phase of the Neolithic, characterized by agricultural diversity and specialized craft production, particularly in bone working.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. The site of Chirand in Eastern India is particularly distinguished by its:
(A) Unique ash-mound formations.
(B) Evidence for the earliest use of rice.
(C) Construction of pit-dwellings.
(D) Exceptionally rich and diverse bone tool industry.

287. What does the evidence from Senuwar suggest about the agricultural practices of the Eastern Neolithic?
(A) A reliance on a single crop, primarily millet.
(B) The absence of any form of agriculture.
(C) The practice of a sophisticated multi-cropping system.
(D) An economy based solely on fruit gathering.

288. The subsistence base of the Eastern Neolithic sites, as described in the passage, can be characterized as:
(A) Narrow and focused only on hunting.
(B) Broad, providing a secure and stable food supply.
(C) Dependent entirely on maritime resources.
(D) Transitional and not yet fully agricultural.

289. The dwellings at the Eastern Neolithic site of Chirand were typically:
(A) Large, rectangular stone structures.
(B) Subterranean pits with thatched roofs.
(C) Natural rock-shelters and caves.
(D) Circular wattle-and-daub houses.

290. Based on the passage, the Eastern Neolithic sites represent which phase of the Neolithic?
(A) A mature phase with diverse agriculture and craft specialization.
(B) An incipient, experimental phase.
(C) A declining phase showing cultural regression.
(D) A phase heavily influenced by Mesopotamian cultures.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

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The Neolithic culture of the North-Eastern region of India presents a distinct cultural profile that shows potential affiliations with Southeast Asian Neolithic traditions. Sites such as Sarutaru and Marakdola in Assam, Daojali Hading in the North Cachar hills, and Selbalgiri in the Garo Hills have yielded a unique assemblage of artifacts that set this region apart from other Neolithic complexes in the subcontinent. A key diagnostic trait of the North-Eastern Neolithic is the presence of ground and polished stone tools, including a particular type of shouldered celt. This tool type is rare in other parts of India but is common in Southeast Asia and Southern China, suggesting possible cultural contact or diffusion. Another significant feature is the pottery, which is typically handmade, coarse, and often features cord or basket impressions on its outer surface. This cord-marked pottery is also a characteristic element of many East and Southeast Asian Neolithic cultures. While direct evidence for plant cultivation is often poorly preserved, the presence of grinding stones,

the southern Yangtze River valley. Animal husbandry was also a significant part of the economy, with the pig being a widespread and culturally vital domesticate. These indigenous developments occurred independently of West Asian influences, representing an autonomous trajectory of social and economic evolution within the East Asian region.

16. (B) small, parallel-sided blades from a prepared core.

Micro-blade technology is a highly specialized stone-working technique characterized by the systematic removal of tiny, standardized blades from a fluted core. These blades are remarkably thin and have sharp, parallel edges. This technology allowed for the efficient use of high-quality raw materials like chert or chalcedony. Once produced, these micro-blades were often further modified into various geometric shapes and hafted into handles to create versatile composite tools for diverse subsistence activities.

17. (B) widespread use of microlithic tools.

The Mesolithic culture of the Indian subcontinent is most distinctly identified by the ubiquitous presence of microlithic industries. These small stone tools represent a significant technological shift toward more portable and efficient equipment. Found in diverse ecological settings, from the desert dunes of Rajasthan to the river plains of the Ganga, these tools were essential for the varied foraging strategies of Holocene hunter-gatherers. This widespread technological tradition remains the defining archaeological marker of the period.

18. (A) Mesolithic

Geometric microliths such as lunates, trapezes, and triangles are the hallmark of Indian Mesolithic tool assemblages. These precise forms were crafted from micro-blades and served as standardized components for composite tools. By hafting these geometric pieces into wooden or bone shafts, Mesolithic hunters created effective barbed arrows, harpoons, and knives. The appearance of these forms signifies a high level of technological refinement and specialization in hunting and gathering strategies across the subcontinent.

19. (C) The primary raw materials were invariably large river cobbles.

Mesolithic stone technology in India was based on the production of micro-blades from specialized fluted cores. These blades were often modified into geometric and non-geometric forms to be used in composite tools. Regarding raw materials, Mesolithic people utilized various high-quality cryptocrystalline minerals such as chert, chalcedony, and agate. These materials were often sourced as small nodules rather than exclusively from large river cobbles, reflecting a strategic selection based on the requirements of micro-blade production.

20. (B) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Indian Mesolithic tool assemblages are characterized by a range of specialized lithic components. Fluted cores were the primary source for producing standardized micro-blades, which were then shaped into various forms. Geometric microliths like lunates and trapezes were common, alongside non-geometric types such as backed blades. In contrast, Acheulean handaxes are associated with the Lower Palaeolithic period and are not a component of the microlithic industries that defined the Mesolithic technological tradition in India.

21. (C) The proportion of geometric microliths varies significantly from region to region.

Although microliths are found across India, their specific types and proportions vary according to regional environments and needs. Some areas exhibit a high frequency of geometric forms like triangles and trapezes, while others are dominated by non-geometric blades. These variations reflect local adaptations and different subsistence focuses, such as hunting, fishing, or plant processing. Such diversity indicates that the Mesolithic was not a monolithic culture but a collection of regional groups with distinct traditions.

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22. (B) a high degree of adaptability and mobility.

The presence of Mesolithic sites in diverse landscapes like sand dunes, rock-shelters, and alluvial plains demonstrates the incredible versatility of these hunter-gatherer groups. They successfully colonized almost every ecological

66. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Hallur is a key Southern Neolithic site that has yielded important botanical evidence, specifically the cultivation of ragi (finger millet). This hardy crop was well-suited to the local semi-arid climate. Furthermore, the site is archaeologically significant for showing a smooth transition or overlap between the final Neolithic stages and the beginning of the Iron Age. This continuity provides crucial insights into the long-term cultural and technological evolution of the prehistoric communities in the southern peninsular region.

67. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Neolithic sites in India are distributed across diverse regional clusters. Teklakota is a prominent site in Karnataka, representing the Southern Neolithic tradition. Chirand is a major center in Bihar, known for its bone tool industry in the Middle Ganga plains. Sarutaru belongs to the North-Eastern Neolithic complex in Assam. Kili-Gul-Muhammad is an important early farming community located in the Baluchistan region of Pakistan. Together, these sites illustrate the varied regional origins of agriculture in the subcontinent.

68. (D) Uttnur

Uttnur, located in the Mahbubnagar district of Telangana, is one of the most thoroughly studied ash-mound sites of the Southern Neolithic. Excavations by F.R. Allchin provided clear evidence that the mound was formed by the periodic burning of cattle dung within a large enclosure. In contrast, Chirand is an Eastern Neolithic site famous for bone tools, Koldihwa is a Central Ganga site known for rice, and Daojali Hading is a North-Eastern site characterized by stone tools and cord-marked pottery.

69. (C) They practiced a mixed economy of agriculture (millets) and pastoralism (cattle-keeping).

The Southern Neolithic communities maintained a specialized agro-pastoral subsistence strategy. They cultivated hardy crops, particularly millets like ragi, which were suited to the semi-arid environment of the Deccan. Simultaneously, they practiced intensive cattle pastoralism, as evidenced by the numerous ash-mounds formed from burnt dung. This mixed economy allowed them to exploit both the agricultural potential of the land and the resources provided by their herds, creating a stable and successful lifestyle on the granite plateaus.

70. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The Neolithic period in the Indian subcontinent is marked by significant regional diversity in both technology and lifestyle. Kashmir is known for its dwelling pits, while Mehrgarh in Baluchistan shows the earliest evidence of agriculture. The Southern Neolithic is distinguished by its pastoral ash-mounds, and the Eastern Neolithic, specifically at Chirand, features a specialized bone tool industry. These regional cultures did not emerge simultaneously or share identical toolkits, as each was a distinct adaptation to its specific local environmental conditions.

71. (D) a transitional hunter-gatherer period preceding the Neolithic.

The Epi-Palaeolithic stage in West Asia represents the final hunter-gatherer phase of the late Pleistocene and early Holocene. It serves as a crucial transitional period between the nomadic lifestyle of the Upper Palaeolithic and the sedentary farming villages of the Neolithic. During this time, groups like the Natufians began to intensify their exploitation of wild grains and established semi-permanent settlements, laying the ecological and social foundations for the eventual domestication of plants and animals.

72. (A) a change in climate and environment leading to the extinction of megafauna.

At the end of the Pleistocene, global warming caused significant environmental shifts, including the retreat of glaciers and the expansion of forests. These changes led to the extinction or northward migration of large herd animals like mammoths and reindeer. Mesolithic populations were forced to adapt by developing a broad-spectrum economy. This involved hunting smaller, faster-moving woodland game and increasing their reliance on aquatic resources and wild plants, necessitating new tools and more flexible subsistence strategies.

73. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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Vindhyan region, and sand-dune sites are primarily found in the semi-arid landscapes of western India. These patterns demonstrate how Mesolithic groups chose settlement locations based on the unique ecological opportunities provided by each region.

30. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Early farming communities in the Indian subcontinent are located in distinct geographical clusters. Mehrgarh is a critical site situated in the Baluchistan plains of Pakistan. Koldihwa represents the Neolithic tradition of the Vindhyan region in Uttar Pradesh. Chirand is a significant site located in the alluvial plains of Bihar, while Sarutaru belongs to the North-Eastern Neolithic complex in Assam. These sites collectively represent the diverse regional origins and trajectories of agriculture across the subcontinent.

31. (A) The Baluchistan plains of Pakistan

Mehrgarh is situated at the foot of the Bolan Pass on the Kachi plains of Baluchistan. This strategic location placed it at the interface between the Iranian plateau and the Indus valley. As one of the most important Neolithic sites in South Asia, it provided fertile land and access to diverse ecological zones. Its position allowed for the early development of a farming economy based on wheat, barley, and the domestication of various local animals.

32. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

Mehrgarh is famous for its long archaeological sequence, showing a continuous development from an aceramic Neolithic stage through the Chalcolithic and into the Harappan period. Similarly, Kili-Gul-Muhammad is an important early farming site in the Quetta valley of Baluchistan. Far from being isolated, it represents the same regional cultural tradition of early food production seen at Mehrgarh. Both sites are integral to understanding the broader Neolithic transition and cultural evolution within the Baluchistan region.

33. (B) indigenous and long-term agricultural development.

The site of Mehrgarh is archaeological significant because it provides clear evidence for a long-term, indigenous transition to agriculture in South Asia. Excavations revealed a sequence where local hunter-gatherers gradually domesticated plants like wheat and barley and animals such as zebu cattle. This discovery challenged earlier theories that farming was entirely imported from West Asia. Mehrgarh proves that the subcontinent was a primary center for the independent development of settled, food-producing societies.

34. (A) It was an aceramic phase with agriculture and animal husbandry.

The earliest occupation at Mehrgarh, known as Period I, represents an aceramic Neolithic culture. During this stage, the inhabitants lived in permanent mud-brick houses and practiced a developed economy based on the cultivation of wheat and barley. They also engaged in the domestication of cattle, sheep, and goats. Despite these complex social and economic advancements, they did not yet produce ceramic vessels, using instead other types of containers for storage and daily use.

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35. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Neolithic inhabitants of the Kashmir Valley, notably at sites like Burzahom and Gufkral, constructed subterranean dwelling pits. These circular or oval structures were dug into the natural soil to provide insulation against the freezing temperatures and biting winds characteristic of the high-altitude Himalayan environment. Post-holes around the pits suggest they were covered with timber and thatch roofs, making them effective shelters for settled farming communities during the harsh winter months.

36. (D) Kili-Gul-Muhammad

Kili-Gul-Muhammad, located in the Quetta Valley, is another fundamental site for understanding the early farming communities of Baluchistan. Like Mehrgarh, it provides a stratigraphic sequence that shows the transition from early Neolithic stages to more complex sedentary life. These sites together demonstrate that the Baluchistan borderlands were a vibrant center for the domestication of plants and animals, forming the foundation for the later urban developments in the Indus valley and surrounding regions.

37. (C) evidence for the cultivation of ragi (finger millet).

The Neolithic culture of Kashmir is distinguished by dwelling pits, a specialized bone and antler tool industry, and burnished grey pottery. Subsistence was based on the cultivation of wheat, barley, and lentils, alongside hunting and fishing. However, ragi is a millet typically associated with the Southern Neolithic tradition in the peninsular region of India. It was not a part of the agricultural repertoire of the temperate Kashmir Neolithic, which focused on different crop varieties.

38. (B) a cultural preference and local adaptation using readily available materials.

Kashmir Neolithic sites are unique for their high concentration of bone and antler tools, including needles, harpoons, and points. This abundance reflects a specific cultural tradition and a practical adaptation to the local environment. While stone tools were also used, the intensive utilization of bone indicates a sophisticated knowledge of organic materials sourced from hunted and domesticated animals. This specialized industry distinguishes the Kashmir tradition from other Neolithic cultures in India that relied more heavily on lithic technology.

39. (D) The economy was based solely on hunting wild animals.

The Kashmir Neolithic represented a fully developed food-producing economy. While hunting and fishing remained important supplementary activities, the primary subsistence was based on the cultivation of crops like wheat and barley, and the domestication of sheep, goats, and cattle. The presence of polished stone harvesters and burials of domesticated animals further confirms a sedentary, agricultural lifestyle. Furthermore, specific artifacts suggest that these communities maintained contacts with contemporary cultures in Central Asia and China.

40. (C) 1, 3 and 4

Period I at Mehrgarh is characterized by a sedentary life based on the cultivation of wheat and barley and the domestication of local animals. The inhabitants built multi-roomed mud-brick houses, reflecting a sophisticated understanding of architecture. However, this earliest phase was aceramic, meaning it lacked pottery altogether. Hand-made and wheel-thrown ceramics only appeared in later occupational levels. Therefore, wheat cultivation, mud-brick construction, and animal domestication are the defining features of the initial Neolithic stage at Mehrgarh.

41. (C) The Central Ganga and Vindhyan region

Koldihwa and Mahagara are key Neolithic sites located in the Belan Valley, which is part of the Vindhyan plateau and the Central Ganga region. These sites are famous for providing early evidence of sedentary life in this part of India. Most notably, they have yielded some of the earliest archaeological data related to rice cultivation in South Asia. Their location in a transitional zone between the hills and the plains allowed inhabitants to exploit diverse ecological resources.

42. (A) They have yielded cord-impressed pottery and evidence for rice.

The Neolithic cultures of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region are archaeologically defined by a specific set of artifacts. These include cord-impressed or cord-marked pottery, which features distinctive patterns made by pressing cords into wet clay. Furthermore, these sites are significant for providing evidence of early rice cultivation, which was the staple crop of the region. Unlike the wheat-based economy of Baluchistan, these communities adapted to the wetter environments of the Ganga valley and its margins.

43. (D) very early dates for the use of cultivated rice.

Lahuradewa is a transformative site for South Asian prehistory located in the Middle Ganga plains. Excavations here have yielded dates for cultivated rice that are significantly earlier than previously recorded at other Neolithic sites. These findings suggest that the Ganga valley may have been an independent and very early center for the domestication of rice. This discovery has major implications for our understanding of the timeline and origins of food production in the Indian subcontinent.

44. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

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Archaeological evidence from Koldihwa and Mahagara suggests a gradual transition from the preceding Mesolithic stage into the Neolithic. This continuity is seen in the survival of microlithic technology alongside new Neolithic features. At Mahagara, excavations uncovered circular arrangements of post-holes that have been convincingly interpreted as the remains of cattle pens. This find provides direct evidence for the importance of animal husbandry in the early farming communities of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region.

45. (C) 1, 4 and 5

The Neolithic culture of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region is represented by several key sites, including Mahagara, Lahuradewa, and Koldihwa. These sites are crucial for studying the early transition to agriculture and sedentary life in this part of India. While Mehrgarh is in Baluchistan and Chirand is further east in Bihar, the sites in the Vindhyan-Belan valley complex provided the foundational evidence for cord-impressed pottery and the early history of rice cultivation in South Asia.

46. (D) a polished stone axe with a tenon or shoulder for hafting.

A shouldered celt is a specialized type of polished stone axe characteristic of the Neolithic cultures in Eastern and North-Eastern India. It features a distinct shoulder or tenon at the butt end, which was designed to facilitate secure hafting into a wooden or bone handle. This technological marker is significant because it shows strong stylistic affinities with stone tools found in Southeast Asia and Southern China, suggesting prehistoric cultural connections across these vast geographical regions.

47. (A) Bihar

Chirand is a major Neolithic site located on the northern bank of the Ganga in the Saran district of Bihar. It is particularly famous for its remarkably rich and diverse industry of tools made from bone and antler. The site's location in an alluvial setting provided the inhabitants with abundant aquatic and terrestrial resources. Chirand represents a fully developed Neolithic society in the Middle Ganga plains, characterized by settled life, agriculture, and specialized craft production.

48. (B) Nagarjunakonda

Eastern Neolithic sites include locations such as Senuwar, Kuchai, and Baidyapur, which represent the spread of farming into the Ganga plains and the Odisha region. These sites are characterized by specific stone tool types and pottery. In contrast, Nagarjunakonda is a prominent Neolithic site located in the southern peninsula, specifically in the Krishna valley of Andhra Pradesh. It belongs to the Southern Neolithic tradition, which features different economic patterns and artifact assemblages compared to eastern sites.

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49. (B) Sarutaru - Shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery

Sarutaru, located in the Kamrup district of Assam, is a representative site of the North-Eastern Neolithic. Its tool assemblage is dominated by shouldered celts, and the pottery is characterized by cord-marked or cord-impressed designs. These features are the primary technological markers for the Neolithic in this region. In contrast, Chirand is known for bone tools rather than ash-mounds, and Daojali Hading is an aceramic stone-tool site. Kuchai is an Eastern Neolithic site lacking pit-dwellings.

50. (A) 2, 4, 3, 1

Neolithic developments in the Indian subcontinent occurred at different times across various regions. The earliest evidence emerges in the Baluchistan region at Mehrgarh, followed by the Kashmir Neolithic tradition. The Eastern Neolithic, represented by sites like Chirand, appeared later as agriculture expanded into the Ganga plains. The Southern Neolithic, characterized by its unique ash-mound tradition and cattle-based economy, represents a later phase of food production in the southern peninsula, consolidating agro-pastoral economies across the Deccan and surrounding areas.

51. (C) Southeast Asia and Southern China.

The North-Eastern Neolithic is characterized by specific artifacts like shouldered celts and cord-impressed pottery. These items are strikingly similar to those found in Neolithic contexts across Southeast Asia and Southern China.

These technological and stylistic parallels suggest that the North-Eastern region of the Indian subcontinent was part of a broader cultural sphere. This interaction likely involved the movement of people or ideas, connecting the subcontinent with the agricultural developments of East and Southeast Asia.

52. (D) it is primarily known for its large ash-mounds.

Senuwar, located in Bihar, is an important Eastern Neolithic site with a diverse agricultural economy including rice, barley, and lentils. It shows a clear stratigraphic succession from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic. Excavations have revealed structural remains like wattle-and-daub houses, indicating a settled village life. However, Senuwar is not associated with ash-mounds. Ash-mounds are a unique and defining feature of the Southern Neolithic culture in the Deccan, specifically linked to their specialized cattle pastoralism.

53. (C) Marakdola

Marakdola is a significant Neolithic site located in the North-Eastern region of India, specifically in Assam. It is grouped with other sites like Sarutaru and Daojali Hading that represent the early farming traditions of the North-East. These sites are identified by the presence of polished stone tools, including shouldered celts, and cord-impressed pottery. In contrast, Teklakota and Piklihal are Southern Neolithic sites, while Mahagara belongs to the Central Ganga and Vindhyan Neolithic tradition.

54. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The Neolithic culture of North-Eastern India is indeed defined by the presence of shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery. However, these cultural traits are not entirely indigenous to the region. They show strong and undeniable affinities with Neolithic assemblages in Southeast Asia and Southern China. This indicates that the North-Eastern region was part of a larger network of cultural interaction and possibly migration, linking the subcontinent with the early agricultural developments of its eastern neighbors.

55. (B) 1, 3, 4, and 5

Eastern and North-Eastern Neolithic sites include a variety of locations across the Ganga plains and the Himalayan foothills. Chirand and Senuwar are key sites in Bihar, while Kuchai is a significant location in Odisha. Daojali Hading represents the North-Eastern tradition in Assam. These sites together illustrate the diverse regional adaptations of early farming communities in eastern India. Koldihwa, although significant, is generally classified within the Central Ganga and Vindhyan Neolithic complex rather than the Eastern group.

56. (A) polished stone tools and specific pottery types.

Many Neolithic sites in the North-Eastern region, such as Sarutaru and Daojali Hading, have been primarily identified through surface collections and limited excavations. The defining evidence consists of polished stone axes, particularly the shouldered variety, and cord-marked pottery. These artifacts provide the primary basis for identifying the Neolithic presence in this ecologically diverse and densely forested region. Unlike some other Neolithic traditions, these sites have not yet yielded extensive evidence of pit-dwellings or large-scale architecture.

57. (C) accumulations of vitrified ash and dung from Neolithic cattle pens.

Ash-mounds are a unique archaeological feature of the Southern Neolithic in India. They consist of massive accumulations of ash that have often become vitrified due to intense heat. Scientific analysis has shown that these mounds were formed by the periodic and intentional burning of large quantities of cattle dung within livestock enclosures. This practice highlights the central importance of cattle in the economy and perhaps the ritual life of the early pastoral communities in the peninsula.

58. (A) The Southern Peninsula

Sanganakallu, Piklihal, and Uttnur are among the most famous Neolithic sites in the southern peninsula of India, located primarily in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. These sites are the pillars of our understanding of the Southern Neolithic tradition. They have yielded extensive evidence of settled life, including residential areas and the distinctive ash-mounds.

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Their location on granite hills or plateaus reflects the specialized agro-pastoral adaptations of these prehistoric communities in the Deccan.

59. (D) The presence of ash-mounds associated with pastoralism.

The Southern Neolithic tradition is uniquely characterized by the presence of large ash-mounds. These mounds resulted from the burning of accumulated cattle dung in pens, signifying an economy that was heavily focused on pastoralism. While these communities also practiced agriculture, particularly the cultivation of millets, the archaeological prominence of cattle-related features is a distinguishing trait. This pastoral focus differentiates the Southern Neolithic from the more purely agricultural traditions found in the Ganga valley or Baluchistan.

60. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The economy of the Southern Neolithic was deeply rooted in cattle pastoralism. This conclusion is primarily supported by the discovery of numerous ash-mounds across the Deccan plateau. Chemical and stratigraphic analyses have confirmed that these mounds are composed of burnt cattle dung. The massive size of these accumulations indicates that herds were kept in large enclosures for long periods. Consequently, the ash-mounds serve as a direct and undeniable proxy for the importance of cattle.

61. (C) Lahuradewa

Kodekal, Teklakota, and Hallur are all prominent Neolithic sites located within the southern peninsular region of India. They represent various aspects of the Southern Neolithic, including habitation areas and ash-mounds. In contrast, Lahuradewa is a significant Neolithic site located in the middle Ganga plains of Uttar Pradesh. It is famous for its early dates for rice cultivation and belongs to the Central Ganga Neolithic tradition, which is culturally distinct from the pastoralist-focused Southern Neolithic.

62. (D) better defense and vantage points for managing cattle herds.

Many Southern Neolithic settlements were strategically established on the summits or terraces of granite hills. This choice of location provided natural defensive advantages and a clear vantage point for monitoring the surrounding landscape. Crucially, these hills offered a superior position for managing and protecting large herds of cattle, which were the mainstay of the economy. This elevated setting allowed pastoral communities to oversee grazing areas and movement, reflecting their specialized lifestyle in the semi-arid Deccan.

63. (A) They are found in abundance in the Kashmir Valley.

Ash-mound sites like Uttnur and Piklihal are a unique and defining characteristic of the Southern Neolithic culture in the Indian peninsula. They resulted from the periodic burning of cattle dung in livestock enclosures, reflecting a specialized pastoral economy. However, these features are entirely absent from the Kashmir Neolithic tradition. The Neolithic culture of Kashmir is instead defined by its dwelling pits and bone tool industry, demonstrating that the two regions followed very different cultural and economic trajectories.

64. (B) Andhra Pradesh/Telangana

Nagarjunakonda is a vital archaeological site located in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, on the banks of the Krishna River. While it became a major Buddhist center in the early historical period, it also contains significant Neolithic remains. Excavations at the site revealed evidence of settled life, including circular huts and a variety of stone tools. Its location in the Krishna valley places it firmly within the heartland of the Southern Neolithic cultural complex.

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65. (C) 1, 2 and 3

The Neolithic culture of southern India is characterized by several distinct features. The economy was agro-pastoral, involving the cultivation of drought-resistant millets like ragi and a heavy reliance on cattle herding, which produced the famous ash-mounds. Their pottery was typically handmade and featured grey or buff-brown colors. However, there is no evidence that their economy was based on maritime trade. Instead, their lifestyle was adapted to the inland environment of the granite hills and plateaus of the Deccan.

niche in the Indian subcontinent during the Holocene. This widespread distribution suggests that Mesolithic populations were highly mobile and capable of tailoring their subsistence strategies and technologies to exploit the specific resources available in various environmental settings, from coastal regions to forested hills.

23. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

Archaeological excavations at Mesolithic sites in the Ganga valley have uncovered intentional human burials containing various grave goods. The inclusion of items like microliths and ornaments suggests that these communities held specific ritual beliefs concerning death. Furthermore, variations in the quantity and type of burial offerings may indicate early forms of social differentiation. These burial practices provide critical evidence for the complex symbolic and social lives of Mesolithic populations beyond simple subsistence activities.

24. (A) high-altitude glacial sites.

Mesolithic populations in India demonstrated remarkable flexibility, inhabiting a wide range of environments. They established camps on stabilized sand dunes, near horseshoe lakes in the Ganga valley, and within natural rock-shelters in the Vindhyan hills. However, there is no evidence of Mesolithic occupation in high-altitude glacial environments, as these regions remained largely inhospitable or inaccessible during the early Holocene. Their settlements were focused on areas with abundant flora, fauna, and water resources.

25. (C) 3, 4, 2, 1

Prehistoric technology in India followed a clear progression from heavy to specialized tools. The sequence begins with the Lower Palaeolithic Acheulean bifaces, followed by the flake-based tools of the Middle Palaeolithic. The Mesolithic period is marked by the predominance of microlithic tools. Finally, the Neolithic stage introduced ground and polished stone celts. This chronological development reflects an increasing refinement in stone-working techniques and adaptation to changing subsistence needs and environmental conditions over thousands of years.

26. (A) horseshoe lake sites.

In the alluvial plains of the Ganga valley, many Mesolithic settlements are found near ox-bow lakes. These bodies of water, formed when meandering rivers change their course, are commonly referred to as horseshoe lakes. These sites were highly attractive to prehistoric groups because they provided a stable supply of water and rich aquatic resources such as fish, mollusks, and turtles. The concentration of settlements around these lakes highlights the importance of riverine ecosystems in Mesolithic subsistence.

27. (D) The analysis of pollen grains showing early forms of cultivation.

Evidence for the early stages of plant management during the Indian Mesolithic primarily comes from palaeo-botanical studies. Analysis of pollen grains from lake sediments in regions like Rajasthan and the Ganga valley has indicated the presence of plants that may have been intentionally encouraged or cultivated. While not representing full-scale agriculture, these findings suggest that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers were already interacting with and manipulating their floral environment, laying the foundations for the eventual transition to the Neolithic.

28. (B) the meandering and shifting courses of rivers.

Horseshoe lakes, also known as ox-bow lakes, are natural features of mature river systems like those in the Ganga Valley. They are created when a river's meandering loop is cut off from the main channel during floods or shifting courses. During the Holocene, these newly formed lakes provided fertile and stable environments that attracted Mesolithic populations. The availability of water and diverse aquatic life made these locations ideal for semi-permanent or seasonal settlements in the plains.

29. (C) Alluvial plain sites - Middle Ganga Valley

Mesolithic sites in India are strategically located to exploit specific environmental resources. The Middle Ganga Valley is renowned for its numerous alluvial plain sites, often situated near ancient river channels and lakes. In contrast, rock-shelter sites are characteristic of the rugged

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The transition to food production during the Neolithic led to a fundamental demographic shift. Unlike the unpredictable nature of hunting and gathering, agriculture and animal husbandry provided a more stable and controllable food supply. This surplus supported larger, sedentary populations and allowed for higher birth rates. Consequently, the Neolithic revolution was followed by a dramatic increase in human population densities and the emergence of larger, more complex permanent settlements across the world's primary agricultural centers.

74. (A) The cultivation of millet versus rice.

The early Neolithic in China developed along two distinct regional paths based on local environments. In the semi-arid Yellow River valley of the north, millet was the primary domesticate and formed the basis of the economy. In contrast, the warmer and wetter Yangtze River valley in the south saw the independent domestication of rice. These two cereal traditions reflect indigenous adaptations to different ecological zones and represent the dual origins of agriculture in the East Asian region.

75. (D) Sand-dune sites - Coastal Tamil Nadu

Mesolithic adaptation patterns in India are closely linked to specific geographical features. Alluvial plain sites are common in the Middle Ganga Valley, while rock-shelters are characteristic of the Vindhyan plateaus. Coastal sites are found near estuaries and lagoons, particularly along the western and eastern coasts. However, sand-dune sites are primarily associated with the semi-arid regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat, such as Bagor and Langhnaj, rather than the coastal landscapes of Tamil Nadu.

76. (B) the processing of plant foods like wild grains and seeds.

The discovery of querns and mullers at Mesolithic sites provides indirect evidence for the increasing importance of plant resources in the diet. These stone tools were used for grinding and crushing various materials. In a Mesolithic context, they strongly suggest the intensive processing of wild grains, seeds, and tubers. This activity indicates a shift toward a more varied subsistence strategy and represents an important step in the long-term human engagement with floral resources before full domestication.

77. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

Regional variations in Mesolithic tool assemblages across India are well-documented and reflect adaptations to diverse local environments and the availability of different stone types. For example, sites in the Ganga valley, the Deccan, and the coastal regions show distinct technological and stylistic differences. Far from being uniform, the Mesolithic was a mosaic of regional cultures, each with its own specialized subsistence strategy and tool-making tradition, demonstrating the high degree of human flexibility during the Holocene.

78. (D) wheel-thrown pottery and iron implements.

Mesolithic rock-shelter sites in central India provide a rich record of prehistoric life. Excavations have revealed thick layers of microlithic tool debris, indicating long periods of occupation. The walls of these shelters are often adorned with paintings showing hunting and social scenes. Furthermore, human burials are frequently found within the living floors. However, wheel-thrown pottery and iron implements are technological markers of much later periods and are not part of the original Mesolithic cultural assemblage.

79. (A) 2, 4, 1, 3

The archaeological sequence at Mehrgarh demonstrates a long-term cultural evolution. It begins with the emergence of an aceramic Neolithic village where the domestication of wheat and barley was first established. Following this early stage, pottery was introduced, initially handmade and later wheel-thrown as technology advanced. The cultivation of cotton appears later in the sequence, representing a further diversification of the agricultural economy. This progression highlights the site's role as a center of continuous indigenous innovation and development.

80. (A) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

Neolithic regions in India are identified by unique cultural markers. The Kashmir region is famous for dwelling pits and specialized bone tools. The Southern Peninsula is distinguished by pastoral ash-mounds and cattle-keeping. The Central

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Ganga and Vindhyan region provides early evidence for rice and cord-impressed pottery. Baluchistan, specifically Mehrgarh, features an initial aceramic Neolithic stage focused on wheat and barley. These diverse features highlight the independent and regional nature of the transition to agriculture across the Indian subcontinent.

81. (B) Antler and Bone

Chirand, located in Bihar, is unique among Indian Neolithic sites for its extensive and sophisticated tool industry made from bone and antler. The inhabitants utilized these materials to craft a wide variety of implements, including needles, points, harpoons, and ornaments. This specialized technology was likely a response to the abundant animal resources available in the riverine environment and may also reflect a local cultural preference. The bone tool industry at Chirand represents a high level of prehistoric craftsmanship.

82. (A) Southeast Asia.

The Neolithic culture of North-Eastern India, characterized by shouldered stone axes and cord-impressed pottery, exhibits clear technological and stylistic affinities with Neolithic traditions in Southeast Asia and Southern China. These parallels suggest that the North-East was part of a larger cultural and perhaps linguistic sphere that extended into the eastern regions. This connection indicates that the origins and development of agriculture in North-Eastern India were influenced by interactions with contemporary cultures in neighboring Southeast Asian territories.

83. (C) both an ash-mound and a settlement site.

Piklihal is a critical Southern Neolithic site that provides evidence for both residential activities and specialized pastoralism. Excavations revealed an ash-mound, which resulted from the burning of cattle dung, alongside a contemporary settlement area where people lived in circular huts. This dual presence allows archaeologists to study the relationship between the domestic life of the community and their intensive cattle-herding practices. Piklihal remains a foundational site for understanding the agro-pastoral economy of the Neolithic Deccan.

84. (D) It is primarily known for its extensive bone tool industry.

Kodekal is a well-known Neolithic ash-mound site located in the Shorapur doab of Karnataka. Like other ash-mounds in the southern peninsula, it represents a specialized pastoral activity focused on cattle-keeping. While it has yielded typical Southern Neolithic stone tools and pottery, it is not characterized by an extensive bone tool industry. Specialized bone tool technology is instead a hallmark of the Kashmir Neolithic and sites like Chirand in the Middle Ganga plains, reflecting different regional adaptations.

85. (C) 1, 2 and 3

Sanganakallu, Hallur, and Teklakota are all prominent Neolithic sites located within the southern peninsular region of India, primarily in the state of Karnataka. These sites have provided essential evidence for the Southern Neolithic tradition, including ash-mounds, circular hut structures, and the cultivation of millets. In contrast, Lahuradewa is a Neolithic site situated in the middle Ganga plains of Uttar Pradesh. It is known for its early rice cultivation and belongs to a different regional cultural complex.

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86. (B) fundamentally transformed human society, economy, and demography.

The development of food production is termed a 'revolution' not because it was sudden, but because of its profound and far-reaching impacts. It shifted the human subsistence strategy from passive gathering to active production, leading to permanent settlements and larger populations. This change necessitated new social structures, concepts of property, and specialized crafts. The Neolithic transition fundamentally altered the human relationship with the environment and laid the socio-economic foundations for all subsequent urban and state-level civilizations across the world.

87. (D) early stages of plant and animal management preceding domestication.

Incipient food production refers to a transitional stage where human groups begin to intensively manage and manipulate certain plant and animal species without yet achieving full domestication. This might include weeding wild grain stands,

protecting specific animals, or diverting water to wild plants. This process represents the behavioral shift that eventually leads to the morphological changes defining domesticated species. It is a crucial evolutionary step that bridges the gap between pure foraging and full-fledged Neolithic agricultural systems.

88. (B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.

The Mesolithic period in India actually saw a significant increase in the number and distribution of inhabited sites compared to the preceding Palaeolithic. This growth was supported by the more favorable climatic conditions of the early Holocene, which brought increased rainfall and a more productive environment. Mesolithic populations successfully adapted to a wide range of ecological niches, leading to a demographic expansion. Therefore, the Holocene climate encouraged, rather than hindered, the growth of human communities across the subcontinent.

89. (C) Koldihwa

Koldihwa, located in the Belan valley of Uttar Pradesh, is a key site for understanding the prehistoric transition in the Vindhyan region. It provides a rare stratigraphic sequence showing continuous occupation from the Mesolithic through the Neolithic and into the Chalcolithic. The site is particularly famous for uncovering some of the earliest evidence for rice in South Asia, found as husk impressions in pottery. It also featured circular huts, reflecting a long-term development toward settled agricultural life.

90. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Neolithic cultures in India are defined by distinct regional traits. Shouldered celts are characteristic of the North-East, while Mehrgarh features an initial aceramic level. Koldihwa is significant for early rice evidence, and Chirand is famous for its bone tool industry. However, ash-mounds are a unique feature of the Southern Neolithic culture in the Deccan and are not found in the Kashmir region. The Kashmir Neolithic is instead distinguished by its dwelling pits and a prominent bone tool tradition.

91. (D) It is primarily famous for its large ash mounds.

Chechar is an important Eastern Neolithic site located in the Vaishali district of Bihar. It exhibits a cultural sequence that spans the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods and shares many technological and stylistic similarities with the nearby site of Chirand. Like other sites in the Middle Ganga plains, it provides evidence of settled life and agriculture. However, Chechar is not associated with ash-mounds. Ash-mounds are a localized feature of the Southern Neolithic pastoral communities in the Deccan.

92. (B) North-Eastern region

The combination of shouldered polished stone axes and cord-impressed pottery is a classic technological signature of the North-Eastern Neolithic culture in India. These artifacts are found at sites across Assam and the surrounding hills, such as Daojali Hading. This specific assemblage distinguishes the region from other Neolithic traditions like the Southern Peninsula, which features ash-mounds and millets, or the Kashmir valley, known for pit-dwellings. The cord-marked pottery tradition also suggests prehistoric links with Southeast Asian and Chinese cultures.

93. (C) The North-Eastern region

Selbalgiri is a significant Neolithic site located in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya. It belongs to the North-Eastern Neolithic complex, which is characterized by the use of polished stone tools, including the distinctive shouldered variety. The site has provided evidence for the transition toward sedentary life in the hilly regions of the North-East. Like other sites in this region, it represents a regional adaptation to the forest-rich environment and shows cultural affinities with eastern neighboring territories.

94. (D) rice agriculture.

Archaeological discoveries at sites like Koldihwa, Mahagara, and Lahuradewa in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region have been fundamental for tracing the origins of rice. These sites provide some of the earliest and most extensive evidence for the cultivation of rice in South Asia, including charred grains and husk impressions in pottery. This data confirms that the Ganga valley was a primary and potentially independent center

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sheep, goats, and cattle. This package, along with ground stone tool technology, eventually spread into Europe and parts of Asia. In contrast, maize and potatoes were independently domesticated in the Americas thousands of years later. Therefore, while West Asian domesticates transformed the Old World, they did not include crops from the Western Hemisphere, which had entirely separate origins of agriculture.

138. (A) Mahagara - Cattle pen evidence

Mahagara is a key Neolithic site in the Vindhyan region known for its structural remains, specifically a large enclosure interpreted as a cattle pen based on post-hole alignments. In contrast, Sarutaru is a North-Eastern site characterized by shouldered celts rather than ash-mounds. Mehrgarh is famous for its early mud-brick houses and agriculture, while dwelling pits are the hallmark of Kashmir sites like Burzahom. Piklihal is known for its ash-mounds and pastoralism, while bone harpoons are more typical of the Kashmir or Chirand traditions.

139. (D) they represent two independent and primary centers of agricultural origins.

West Asia and China are of global archaeological significance because they represent two of the world's most important independent centers where agriculture first developed. In West Asia, the transition was based on wheat and barley, while in China, it focused on millet in the north and rice in the south. These developments were indigenous and occurred without external influence from other regions. They provided the foundational domesticates and social structures that eventually spread and influenced the history of their respective continents and beyond.

140. (A) 2, 4, 3, 1

The transition to settled farming in West Asia followed a clear chronological sequence. It began with the Natufian culture of the late Epi-Palaeolithic, representing the first semi-sedentary hunter-gatherers. This was followed by the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (PPNA), characterized by circular houses. The subsequent Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) saw the introduction of rectangular architecture and intensified agriculture. Finally, the Pottery Neolithic emerged, marking the adoption of ceramic technology. This progression illustrates the gradual development of food production and sedentary village life.

141. (C) a naturally formed shallow cave-like opening at the base of a cliff or rock formation.

A rock-shelter is a natural geological feature created by the erosion of rock layers, typically at the base of a cliff. Unlike deep caves, rock-shelters are relatively shallow and provide a protected area that is open to natural light. These formations were highly attractive to prehistoric hunter-gatherers, including Mesolithic groups in central India. They offered ready-made habitation and a durable surface for rock art. Sites like Bhimbetka demonstrate how these shelters were used for both living and cultural expression over many millennia.

142. (D) a floor paved with stones and bones.

Bagor, located on a large sand dune in the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan, is a pivotal Mesolithic site. Excavations revealed a massive quantity of microliths and animal bones, along with a unique structural feature: a floor paved with stones and bones. This evidence suggests a degree of sedentism or repeated seasonal use by hunter-gatherer groups. The site also provides important data on the transition toward animal domestication, as later levels show evidence of sheep and goats alongside continued hunting activities.

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143. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Contrary to the idea of a lack of artistic expression, the Indian Mesolithic period witnessed a flourishing of rock art. The famous rock-shelters of Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh contain hundreds of paintings that depict hunting scenes, dancing, and various aspects of daily life. Many of these paintings have been archaeologically attributed to the Mesolithic period based on their style, themes, and association with microlithic deposits. These artworks provide invaluable insights into the social and symbolic world of prehistoric hunter-gatherer communities across central India.

144. (B) the adoption or invention of a new technology for making containers.

sand dunes. The presence of dense microlith scatters, hearths, and animal bones indicates that these were occupational sites rather than just factory areas. Such locations often served as seasonal camps for mobile hunter-gatherer groups. They would occupy these dunes near water sources to hunt game and process various resources, reflecting the highly adaptable and mobile lifestyle characteristic of the Mesolithic populations in western India.

103. (D) They are found in almost all parts of the country in diverse ecological settings.

Mesolithic sites in India exhibit an incredibly broad and diverse distribution. Far from being restricted to specific hills or plains, they are found across the entire subcontinent, from the desert dunes of the west to the alluvial plains of the Ganga and the coasts of the peninsula. This widespread presence indicates that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers were highly successful in adapting to a wide variety of ecological niches during the early Holocene, including forests, wetlands, and coastal estuaries.

104. (A) palaeo-demography and social-ritual practices.

The burial evidence from Mesolithic sites in the Ganga valley, such as Sarai Nahar Rai and Mahadaha, provides a wealth of information beyond simple biology. These intentional burials, often containing multiple individuals and grave goods, offer insights into the population structure, health, and life expectancy of prehistoric groups. Furthermore, the standardized burial positions and the inclusion of offerings suggest the existence of complex ritual beliefs and perhaps early forms of social organization and territoriality among these communities.

105. (A) 1, 2 and 3

Mehrgarh is a foundational Neolithic site located in the Kachi plains of Baluchistan. Its earliest occupation, Period I, is aceramic but provides clear evidence of a sedentary society based on the cultivation of wheat and barley. Most notably, the site has yielded the earliest known evidence for cotton cultivation in South Asia. Unlike many other prehistoric settlements, Mehrgarh shows a remarkable cultural continuity that extends over several millennia, eventually contributing to the developments that led to the Indus civilization.

106. (A) The pottery is predominantly wheel-made and painted from the earliest levels.

The Neolithic culture of Kashmir is characterized by dwelling pits and a specialized industry of bone tools and stone harvesters. While pottery is present from early on, it is distinctly handmade and often features a burnished grey finish. Wheel-made and painted ceramics only appear in the later stages of the Neolithic or in subsequent periods. The site of Gufkral, meaning cave of the potter, confirms the long-term importance of ceramic production, though its earliest phases relied on manual techniques.

107. (D) Central Ganga and Vindhyan region

Residential architecture in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan Neolithic often consisted of circular huts. These structures were built with wattle-and-daub walls, which involved weaving wooden sticks and coating them with a mixture of mud and organic material. The floors of these huts were sometimes paved with stones or clay. This type of dwelling is a common feature at sites like Koldihwa and Mahagara, representing a stable, sedentary lifestyle adapted to the riverine and plateau environments of the region.

108. (B) possible cultural diffusion or contact.

The Neolithic site of Chirand in Bihar is famous for its elaborate bone and antler tools. Some prehistorians have noted striking similarities between these implements and those found in Neolithic contexts in Southeast Asia and Southern China. While independent invention is possible, these parallels are often cited as potential evidence for long-distance cultural diffusion or prehistoric contact across the eastern regions. This highlights the possibility that early farming communities in the Ganga plains were part of a broader network of interaction.

109. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Although often broadly grouped as the Eastern Neolithic, the cultures of the North-Eastern region and the Middle Ganga plains exhibit significant differences. Sites in the North-East, like Daojali Hading, are characterized by shouldered celts and cord-marked pottery. In

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for the development of rice-based agricultural systems in the ancient world.

95. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Chirand's remarkable bone and antler tool industry is a direct result of its favorable ecological setting. Situated near the confluence of the Ganga and other major rivers, the site was surrounded by rich alluvial plains that supported diverse wildlife. The inhabitants practiced a mixed economy of farming and intensive hunting and fishing. This provided a continuous and abundant supply of animal bones and antlers, which were then skillfully crafted into a wide array of specialized tools and ornaments.

96. (B) Uttnur - Ash-mound

Uttnur is a quintessential Southern Neolithic site famous for its massive ash-mound, which resulted from the burning of cattle dung in pastoral enclosures. In contrast, Mehrgarh is known for its mud-brick architecture and early agriculture rather than dwelling pits, which are characteristic of Kashmir. Chirand is celebrated for its bone tool industry, while the earliest evidence of cotton in the subcontinent comes from Mehrgarh. Koldihwa is primarily significant for its early evidence of rice cultivation in the Vindhyas.

97. (B) Kuchai

Sanganakallu, Teklakota, and Hallur are all prominent Neolithic sites situated in the southern peninsular region of India, specifically in the state of Karnataka. These sites are key to understanding the Southern Neolithic tradition. Kuchai, however, is a Neolithic site located in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. It belongs to the Eastern Neolithic complex, which is culturally and geographically distinct from the agro-pastoral communities that occupied the granite hills and plateaus of the Deccan.

98. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Neolithic communities of southern India adopted a subsistence strategy centered on the cultivation of millets, such as ragi, and various pulses. These crops are exceptionally hardy and drought-resistant, making them ideal for the semi-arid conditions of the Deccan plateau. This agricultural practice, combined with intensive cattle pastoralism, allowed these groups to successfully thrive in an environment with unpredictable rainfall. This specialized agro-pastoral adaptation is a defining feature of the Southern Neolithic cultural complex.

99. (C) Eastern India

Baidyapur is a significant Neolithic site located in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. It is considered part of the Eastern Neolithic cultural complex, which extends across the Ganga plains and parts of the neighboring plateau regions. Excavations at the site have yielded a range of polished stone tools and pottery, providing evidence for the spread of early farming communities into eastern India. Its location highlights the regional diversity and broad distribution of Neolithic developments beyond the primary centers.

100. (A) 2, 3, 1, 4

Neolithic sites in India are distributed across a wide latitudinal range. Burzahom in the Kashmir valley represents the northernmost cluster. Moving south, Chirand is located in the Middle Ganga plains of Bihar. Sarutaru is situated in the North-Eastern region, geographically south of the Kashmir highlands but north of the peninsular sites. Sanganakallu, located in the Deccan region of Karnataka, represents the southern extension of these Neolithic traditions. This sequence reflects the broad north-to-south spread of settled life.

101. (C) a small stone tool, typically 1 to 5 cm long, often made from a micro-blade.

Microliths are the defining technological feature of the Mesolithic period. These are very small stone tools, usually measuring between one and five centimeters, carefully crafted from micro-blades removed from a prepared core. Their small size was not a limitation but a design feature; they were meant to be hafted into wooden or bone handles to create complex composite tools like arrows, harpoons, and sickles. This innovation allowed for greater versatility and precision in Holocene foraging activities.

102. (B) Mesolithic seasonal camp.

In the semi-arid regions of Gujarat and Rajasthan, many Mesolithic sites are found on stabilized

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Since India has diverse landscapes, from desert dunes to riverine plains and coastal estuaries, human groups developed specialized strategies to exploit the unique resources of each. This resulted in regional variations in diet, tool types, and settlement patterns. Such flexibility explains why Mesolithic sites are found in almost every ecological niche across the subcontinent.

117. (C) 1, 2, 4 and 5

Neolithic sites in India are situated in distinct geographical zones. Hallur is a key Southern Neolithic site in Karnataka, and Senuwar is a prominent Eastern Neolithic site in Bihar. Marakdola represents the North-Eastern Neolithic tradition in Assam, while Kodekal is a well-known ash-mound site in the Deccan. However, Selbalgiri is located in the North-Eastern region (Meghalaya) rather than Kashmir. These sites collectively illustrate the broad and regionalized spread of early farming and pastoral communities across the entire Indian subcontinent.

118. (B) Kili-Gul-Muhammad - Kashmir Valley

Neolithic sites in the subcontinent are linked to specific regional cultural complexes. Nagarjunakonda is located in the southern peninsula, Lahuradewa is in the central Ganga region, and Sarutaru belongs to the North-Eastern region. However, Kili-Gul-Muhammad is an important early farming site situated in the Baluchistan region of Pakistan, near the Quetta valley. It is not part of the Kashmir Neolithic complex, which is characterized by different features like dwelling pits and is represented by sites such as Burzahom.

119. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The discovery and excavation of Lahuradewa in Uttar Pradesh have significantly altered our understanding of agricultural origins in India. The site has yielded evidence for cultivated rice with radio-carbon dates that push its antiquity back much further than previously thought. These dates are notably earlier than those from Koldihwa, which was formerly considered one of the oldest rice-producing sites. Lahuradewa suggests that the Ganga valley was a very early and potentially independent center for the development of rice-based farming.

120. (A) Odisha.

Kuchai is an important Neolithic site located in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. It is archaeologically significant for providing a clear stratigraphic context where a microlithic industry is directly succeeded by a Neolithic layer containing polished stone tools and coarse pottery. This succession illustrates the transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a more settled, food-producing economy in eastern India. Kuchai remains a foundational site for understanding the regional Neolithic developments within the eastern fringes of the Indian plateau.

121. (C) A distinct microlithic blade industry

The Neolithic culture of Kashmir is unique among Indian Neolithic traditions for several reasons. It is characterized by dwelling pits, a prominent bone tool industry, and specialized polished stone harvesters. However, it lacks the distinct microlithic blade industry that is commonly found in many other Neolithic contexts across the subcontinent. This absence suggests that the Kashmir Neolithic followed a separate technological trajectory, focusing on ground stone and organic materials rather than the specialized production of micro-blades for composite tools.

122. (A) Southern Peninsular India.

The presence of ground stone axes, handmade pottery, and the cultivation of millets is the technological and economic signature of the Southern Neolithic culture. These communities, located across the Deccan plateau, adapted to a semi-arid environment by focusing on hardy crops and cattle pastoralism. This assemblage differs from the wheat-based economy of Baluchistan, the pit-dwelling traditions of Kashmir, or the rice-focused cultures of the Ganga Valley. It represents a specialized agro-pastoral lifestyle unique to the southern part of the subcontinent.

123. (D) intensive cattle-herding and pastoral activity.

The ash-mounds of Southern India are a direct archaeological reflection of a specialized pastoral economy. Scientific investigations have confirmed that these mounds consist of vitrified cattle dung, resulting from the intentional burning of accumulated waste in livestock enclosures.

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151. (D) It has yielded evidence for a variety of cultivated crops, including rice, barley, and lentils.

Senuwar is an important Eastern Neolithic site in Bihar that provides a comprehensive view of early agricultural life. Unlike sites with only one crop, Senuwar has yielded evidence for a multi-crop economy that included rice, barley, wheat, and various pulses like lentils. This diversity indicates a sophisticated and stable subsistence strategy. The site also shows a clear cultural sequence into the Chalcolithic period, reflecting the long-term development of settled farming communities in the alluvial plains of the Middle Ganga region.

152. (A) development of more complex social structures and property concepts.

The shift to a sedentary lifestyle during the Neolithic was a transformative process. Living in permanent villages with stored food surpluses and cultivated lands led to the development of new social rules and concepts of ownership. This sedentism encouraged population growth and specialized labor, as not everyone was required for food procurement. Consequently, Neolithic societies became more complex, with increasingly structured social organizations and the emergence of territoriality, providing the foundation for the eventual rise of urban and state-level civilizations.

153. (C) raw material from which long, parallel-sided micro-blades have been removed.

In Mesolithic stone technology, a fluted core is a piece of raw stone, such as chert or chalcedony, that has been systematically prepared to produce micro-blades. It is characterized by the presence of multiple, parallel vertical scars or flutes left by the removal of tiny, standardized blades. These cores are the primary indicators of a highly specialized and efficient tool-making tradition. The blades removed from these cores were then used as the sharp components of various composite tools, harpoons, and arrows.

154. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Mesolithic rock paintings found in central India, such as those at Bhimbetka, are invaluable for reconstructing prehistoric life. They depict scenes of collective hunting, dancing, and family activities, offering a glimpse into the social and economic world of hunter-gatherers. Many of these shelters show superimposition, where newer paintings were made over older ones. This layering indicates that these sites were used repeatedly over thousands of years, serving as long-term cultural and symbolic focal points for the regional Mesolithic populations.

155. (C) 1, 2 and 3

The Southern Neolithic culture was concentrated on the granite hills and plateaus of the Deccan, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Its economy was heavily based on cattle pastoralism, which resulted in the formation of numerous ash-mounds from burnt dung. These communities were agro-pastoral, cultivating millets and pulses rather than wheat and barley. While wheat and barley were the staples in Baluchistan, the southern groups adapted their agricultural practices to the semi-arid environment by focusing on different, more resilient crop varieties.

156. (B) Sanganakallu

Sanganakallu, located in the Bellary district of Karnataka, is one of the largest and most significant Neolithic sites in South India. It is particularly famous for being a major center for the mass production of polished stone tools. Excavations uncovered massive quantities of tool-making debris, including unfinished axes and hammerstones. This factory site status indicates that Sanganakallu was a hub of specialized craft activity, supplying stone tools to surrounding communities and reflecting the organized nature of Southern Neolithic technology and exchange.

157. (C) Chirand - Ash mound

archaeological sites in India are often identified by unique features. Koldihwa is famous for early rice husk impressions, and Burzahom is known for its ritualistic dog burials. Mehrgarh has provided the earliest known evidence of cotton in the subcontinent. However, Chirand is an Eastern Neolithic site celebrated for its extensive bone tool industry rather than ash-mounds. Ash-mounds are a specific and unique feature of the Southern Neolithic culture in the Deccan, specifically linked to their specialized cattle pastoralist economy and ritual practices.

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for cultivated rice. Uttnur is a quintessential Southern Neolithic ash-mound site. Mehrgarh represents the earliest known aceramic Neolithic village in South Asia, characterized by wheat and barley cultivation. Chirand, located in Bihar, is renowned for its unique and extensive industry of bone and antler tools. Together, these sites demonstrate the diverse regional origins and specialized traditions of early food-producing societies.

131. (C) The invention of pottery occurred before the first signs of plant cultivation.

In the West Asian Neolithic, the transition to food production followed a specific sequence where agriculture and sedentism preceded ceramic technology. This initial stage is known as the Pre-Pottery Neolithic, during which communities lived in permanent villages and cultivated wheat and barley while using containers made of organic materials or stone. Pottery was a much later invention that appeared only after settled farming life was well-established. Therefore, the domestication of plants was the primary innovation that triggered the Neolithic revolution in the region.

132. (D) interpersonal violence or conflict.

The discovery of a human skeleton with a microlith embedded in a bone, such as a vertebra, is direct archaeological evidence of interpersonal violence. Such finds at Mesolithic sites in the Ganga valley suggest that despite the abundant resources of the Holocene, competition for territory or resources could lead to conflict. This provides a more complex view of Mesolithic social life, indicating that these communities were not always peaceful and that organized violence was a reality even among prehistoric hunter-gatherers.

133. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Sanganakallu, located in Karnataka, is a highly significant site with a very long record of human activity. It shows a sequence of occupation that begins in the Palaeolithic and continues through the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. The Neolithic levels are particularly famous because the site served as a major factory for the large-scale manufacture of polished stone axes. The abundance of tool debris and unfinished artifacts confirms its role as a regional center for stone tool production during the Southern Neolithic.

134. (B) the abundance of rock-shelters for habitation and availability of raw material for tools.

The Vindhyan hills host a massive concentration of Mesolithic sites due to their ideal geological and ecological characteristics. The sandstone formations provide numerous natural rock-shelters that offered ready-made habitation and protection. Furthermore, the region is rich in high-quality cryptocrystalline minerals like chert and chalcedony, which were essential for producing microlithic tools. Combined with the abundant flora and fauna of the forested hills, these factors made the Vindhyas one of the most favorable environments for hunter-gatherer groups during the early Holocene.

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135. (C) 1, 2 and 3

The Neolithic culture of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region is characterized by settled village life based on rice cultivation and animal husbandry. Sites like Koldihwa and Mahagara provide essential evidence for this tradition, including the use of distinctive cord-impressed pottery. Residential architecture typically consisted of circular huts built with wattle-and-daub walls. Unlike the Kashmir Neolithic, which featured subterranean pit-houses, these communities built their dwellings on the ground surface, reflecting an adaptation to the wetter environment of the Ganga valley and its margins.

136. (A) Teklakota

Teklakota is a major Southern Neolithic site situated in the Bellary district of Karnataka. It is located near the confluence of the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, occupying the terraces of prominent granite hills. The site is famous for its extensive settlement remains, including circular huts and a wide variety of stone and bone tools. Its elevated position provided a strategic vantage point for overseeing grazing lands, reflecting the specialized agro-pastoral lifestyle of the Neolithic communities that inhabited the Deccan plateau.

137. (C) domesticated maize and potato.

The Neolithic cultural package that emerged in West Asia was based on a specific set of domesticates, including wheat, barley, pulses,

contrast, Chirand and contemporary sites in Bihar feature a unique bone tool industry and different ceramic styles. These distinctions highlight the existence of separate regional traditions that developed independently, despite their relative geographical proximity within the eastern part of the subcontinent.

110. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The later phases of the Southern Neolithic are frequently described as Neolithic-Chalcolithic because of a gradual technological shift. While the subsistence strategy and the use of ground stone tools remained consistent, small quantities of copper and bronze artifacts began to appear in the archaeological record. This overlap indicates that these communities were becoming part of wider exchange networks that brought metal technology into the southern peninsula. However, stone tools continued to be the primary equipment for daily tasks.

111. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Neolithic sites in the Indian subcontinent are categorized by their regional cultural traditions. Daojali Hading is a representative site of the North-Eastern Neolithic in Assam. Mahagara is a key location within the Central Vindhyan Neolithic complex of the Belan Valley. Piklihal is a famous Southern Neolithic site in Karnataka, known for its habitation and ash-mound. Kili-Gul-Muhammad is an important early farming community in Baluchistan. These sites together illustrate the diverse origins and regional trajectories of food production across South Asia.

112. (B) Karnataka.

Teklakota is a significant Southern Neolithic settlement located in the Bellary district of Karnataka. Situated on the terraces of granite hills, the site has provided extensive evidence of sedentary life, including circular huts and a rich lithic industry. Like other sites in the Deccan region, its inhabitants practiced a mixed economy of millet cultivation and cattle pastoralism. Teklakota remains one of the largest and most important excavated settlements for understanding the lifestyle and technology of the Neolithic peninsula.

113. (B) It was non-existent; food production is a defining trait of the Neolithic.

The Mesolithic period in Europe is defined by a subsistence strategy based entirely on hunting, gathering, and fishing. Although these populations were highly sophisticated and exploited a wide range of resources in post-glacial environments, they did not practice agriculture or animal domestication. Food production is the fundamental technological and economic innovation that marks the transition into the Neolithic. Therefore, while Mesolithic groups might have managed wild resources, the intentional breeding of plants and animals was not part of their economy.

114. (A) Epi-Palaeolithic (Late).

In West Asia, the transition to settled life began before the full domestication of crops. Sites from the late Epi-Palaeolithic, such as those of the Natufian culture, show evidence of permanent mud-brick architecture and the use of grinding stones for processing plants. However, the seeds found at these sites are typically of wild forms rather than fully domesticated varieties. Such an assemblage represents the incipient stages of sedentism and plant management that immediately preceded the Neolithic revolution and the advent of pottery.

115. (C) Polished Celts

The tool-kit of the Indian Mesolithic is defined by small stone tools produced through micro-blade technology. Common components include geometric microliths like trapezes and lunates, alongside non-geometric types like backed blades. These were used as parts of composite tools for hunting and gathering. In contrast, polished celts are ground stone axes that are characteristic of the subsequent Neolithic period. They represent a different technological tradition focused on tasks like forest clearing, which was not a feature of the Mesolithic toolkit.

116. (D) different groups developing strategies to survive in diverse environments.

Ecological adaptation in the context of the Indian Mesolithic refers to the ability of hunter-gatherer groups to tailor their subsistence and technology to specific local environments.

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The transition from an aceramic to a ceramic phase at a site like Mehrgarh represents a significant technological milestone. It indicates that the sedentary agricultural community either invented or adopted the technique of firing clay to produce durable, waterproof containers. Pottery allowed for more efficient cooking, storage of food surpluses, and transport of liquids. This development reflects the increasing complexity and technological sophistication of the Neolithic society, even as their fundamental subsistence strategy of farming and animal husbandry remained the same.

145. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Neolithic sites in India are situated in distinct geographical zones. Teklakota is a prominent Southern Neolithic site, while Baidyapur and Marakdola represent the Eastern and North-Eastern Neolithic traditions respectively. Kili-Gul-Muhammad is a crucial early farming community in the Baluchistan region. However, Mahagara is located in the Vindhyan region of Uttar Pradesh and is associated with the Central Ganga Neolithic rather than Kashmir. These sites together demonstrate the widespread and regionalized development of early farming and pastoralism throughout the Indian subcontinent.

146. (A) It is primarily known for its extensive aceramic levels similar to Mehrgarh.

Hallur is a major Southern Neolithic site located in Karnataka, but it is not primarily known for an aceramic phase. Instead, its significance lies in providing evidence for the cultivation of ragi (finger millet) and showing a smooth transition or overlap between the Neolithic and the early Iron Age. This continuity is reflected in the appearance of iron tools alongside ground stone implements. Hallur provides essential data on the technological and economic evolution of prehistoric communities in the semi-arid Deccan plateau.

147. (C) Agro-pastoral.

The economy of the Southern Neolithic culture is best described as agro-pastoral. These communities were not solely farmers or solely herders but practiced a mixed strategy. They cultivated drought-resistant crops, particularly millets and pulses, which were suited to the semi-arid climate. Simultaneously, they maintained large herds of cattle, which were central to their economy and social life, as evidenced by the massive ash-mounds. this dual focus allowed them to successfully inhabit and exploit the granite hill landscapes of the southern peninsula.

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148. (D) The Thar Desert.

Early farming communities emerged in several distinct regional clusters across the Indian subcontinent during the Neolithic. These include Baluchistan, the Kashmir Valley, and the Central Ganga Region. Each of these areas supported sedentary agricultural life based on local domesticates. However, the Thar Desert remained a region primarily occupied by mobile Mesolithic hunter-gatherer groups for a much longer period. While some later pastoral activity occurred, it was not one of the primary centers for the initial development of settled Neolithic farming.

149. (C) Burzahom

Burzahom, a famous Neolithic site in the Kashmir Valley, is renowned for its unique and ritualistic burial practices. Excavations uncovered several instances where animals, particularly dogs, were buried alongside their masters in intentional graves. This practice suggests a strong social or symbolic bond between humans and their animals, possibly reflecting a belief in the afterlife or the status of the deceased. Such burials are a distinctive feature of the Kashmir Neolithic tradition and are not commonly found in other regional Neolithic cultures.

150. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The presence of wheat and barley at early Mehrgarh is significant because these crops are not native to the Indian subcontinent. Their wild ancestors are found exclusively in the Fertile Crescent of West Asia. This botanical evidence strongly suggests that the knowledge or the actual seeds of these cereals were transmitted from the west. This link highlights the role of regional interaction in the spread of primary agricultural domesticates, even as Mehrgarh developed its own distinct and indigenous sedentary farming tradition.

This indicates that Neolithic communities in the peninsula possessed large herds of cattle, which were central to their subsistence and social life. The ash-mounds serve as a visible and permanent record of the intensive animal husbandry that defined the Southern Neolithic tradition.

124. (B) Chechar.

Piklihal, Uttnur, and Sanganakallu are all quintessential Southern Neolithic sites located in the peninsular region, specifically in Karnataka and Telangana. They are characterized by habitation areas, cattle pastoralism, and ash-mounds. Chechar, however, is a significant Neolithic site situated in the Vaishali district of Bihar, in the Middle Ganga plains. It belongs to the Eastern Neolithic cultural complex, which features a different subsistence economy and artifact assemblage, highlighting the regional diversity of Neolithic developments in India.

125. (A) 2, 4, 3, 1

The emergence of food production followed a distinct chronological pattern across South Asia. Mehrgarh in Baluchistan shows the earliest evidence of agriculture, dating back to the seventh millennium BCE. Sites like Lahuradewa and Koldihwa in the Ganga valley provide very early evidence for rice cultivation, with Lahuradewa yielding particularly ancient dates. The Southern Neolithic, represented by sites like Hallur, appeared much later, consolidating agro-pastoral economies in the peninsula. This sequence reflects the gradual and regionalized spread of sedentary farming.

126. (D) human-controlled breeding of plants and animals.

Food production is the defining economic shift of the Neolithic period, representing a move from passive exploitation to active management of nature. It specifically refers to the intentional cultivation of crops and the selective breeding of livestock. By controlling the reproductive cycles of certain species, human communities could generate food surpluses and reduce their dependence on wild resources. This fundamental change in subsistence strategy led to permanent settlements, social complexity, and a dramatic increase in the carrying capacity of the land.

127. (A) Daojali Hading

Daojali Hading is one of the most important Neolithic sites in the North-Eastern region, located in the North Cachar Hills of Assam. Along with Sarutaru, Selbalgiri, and Marakdola, it defines the North-Eastern Neolithic complex. The site is identified by the presence of polished stone tools, including shouldered celts, and cord-marked pottery. These features represent a distinct regional tradition that shows strong cultural affinities with Southeast Asia, distinguishing it from the Neolithic cultures of the Ganga plains, Baluchistan, or the Kashmir valley.

128. (B) There is evidence for a transition and overlap, with Neolithic traits developing from a late Mesolithic base.

In the Ganga Valley, the transition from foraging to farming appears to have been a gradual process rather than a sudden replacement. Archaeological evidence from sites like Koldihwa shows a cultural continuity where Mesolithic microlithic technology survived into the early Neolithic stages. This suggests that local hunter-gatherer groups slowly adopted agricultural practices and sedentary life over time. This overlap indicates that Neolithic traits, such as pottery and food production, developed from and coexisted with an existing Mesolithic cultural base.

129. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Mesolithic period is technically characterized by the widespread adoption of composite tools. Instead of relying on single, large stone implements, people crafted tiny, standardized microliths. These sharp stone pieces were designed to be hafted or glued onto bone, antler, or wooden handles. This innovation allowed for the creation of more efficient and versatile equipment, such as barbed arrows, harpoons, and sickles with replaceable cutting edges. This technological shift greatly enhanced the precision and productivity of hunting and gathering activities.

130. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Neolithic sites in the Indian subcontinent are famous for specific archaeological markers. Lahuradewa is significant for its very early dates

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158. (D) Exploitation of aquatic resources like fish and turtles, alongside hunting.

Mesolithic settlements near horseshoe or ox-bow lakes in the Gangetic plains were ideally positioned to exploit a riverine environment. These stable bodies of water provided an abundant and predictable supply of aquatic resources. Excavations at such sites often reveal the remains of fish, turtles, and aquatic mollusks, alongside the bones of various terrestrial animals. This diverse diet indicates that Mesolithic groups in the plains developed a specialized subsistence strategy that successfully combined hunting with the intensive harvesting of freshwater resources.

159. (A) Existence of exchange networks or long-distance travel.

The discovery of marine shells at an inland site like Bagor, located hundreds of kilometers from the coast, is archaeologically significant. It strongly suggests that Mesolithic communities were part of long-distance exchange networks or that they engaged in seasonal migration over vast distances. These shells were likely used as ornaments or ritual items, reflecting a level of social interaction and regional connectivity that transcended local ecological boundaries. This evidence demonstrates that prehistoric hunter-gatherers were far from being isolated, self-sufficient groups.

160. (A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

Neolithic sites in India are situated in distinct geographical and cultural zones. Nagarjunakonda is a prominent site in the Krishna valley of Andhra Pradesh. Marakdola represents the North-Eastern Neolithic tradition in Assam. Lahuradewa is a significant site located in the middle Ganga plains of Uttar Pradesh, famous for its early rice evidence. Teklakota is a major Southern Neolithic settlement in Karnataka. Together, these sites illustrate the varied regional trajectories of early sedentary farming and pastoral communities across the entire Indian subcontinent.

161. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Neolithic of the North-Eastern subcontinent is characterized by distinct technological markers like the shouldered celt and cord-marked pottery. These artifact types are not found elsewhere in India but show striking similarities to Neolithic assemblages in Southeast Asia and Southern China. This archaeological evidence strongly suggests that the North-East was part of a larger cultural sphere. These parallels indicate significant prehistoric interaction or migration, linking the origins of agriculture in this region with the developments in neighboring eastern territories.

162. (A) Neolithic cultures of the Aravalli region

The Neolithic transition in the Indian subcontinent is generally studied through four primary regional complexes: the Baluchistan region (Mehrgarh), the Kashmir Valley (Burzahom), the Eastern and North-Eastern regions (Chirand, Sarutaru), and the Southern Peninsula (Deccan ash-mounds). While the Aravalli region of Rajasthan has rich Mesolithic and later Chalcolithic sites like Bagor and Ahar, it is not typically classified as a primary, distinct center of Neolithic cultural development in the same way as the other four major regions.

163. (C) Traditions of millet in the north and rice in the south.

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The Neolithic period in China is defined by the independent development of two distinct agricultural traditions. In the semi-arid Yellow River valley of the north, millet became the staple crop. In contrast, the wetter and warmer Yangtze River valley in the south saw the early domestication of rice. These indigenous developments represent two separate centers of food production. Both regions also saw the early use of pottery and sedentary village life, forming the twin foundations of Chinese civilization.

164. (D) The presence of iron ploughs.

Evidence for the early stages of plant and animal management during the Indian Mesolithic comes from diverse scientific data. Analysis of pollen cores provides information on vegetation changes, while grain impressions in early pottery and the study of animal bones offer clues about domestication. However, iron ploughs are not evidence of this period. Iron technology appeared in India thousands of years later, during the first millennium BCE. Mesolithic tools were

allowed for more standardized and efficient production. This shift suggests the emergence of specialized craftspeople and a higher demand for ceramic vessels in the growing Neolithic community. It reflects the increasing social complexity and technological innovation that characterized the long-term development of the site before the rise of urbanism.

179. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1

Prehistoric developments in India followed a clear chronological progression. Mesolithic rock art at Bhimbetka represents some of the earliest cultural expressions in the Holocene. This was followed by the emergence of the aceramic Neolithic at Mehrgarh, marking the start of food production. The Southern Neolithic ash-mounds reflect later specialized pastoral adaptations in the Deccan. Finally, the Mature Harappan period represents the culmination of these developments into the first urban civilization. This sequence highlights the long-term evolution of social complexity across the subcontinent.

180. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

Neolithic sites in India are distributed across distinct geographical regions. Senuwar is a prominent site in Bihar, representing the Eastern Neolithic. Selbalgiri is located in the North-Eastern region, specifically in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya. Kodekal is a well-known ash-mound site in the Southern peninsular region of Karnataka. Koldihwa belongs to the Central Vindhyan region in Uttar Pradesh. These sites collectively illustrate the diverse regional adaptations and broad distribution of early farming and pastoral communities across the entire Indian subcontinent.

181. (C) Cord-impressed Ware

Cord-impressed or cord-marked pottery is the characteristic ceramic tradition of the North-Eastern Neolithic in India. This pottery was decorated by pressing a cord or string into the wet clay before firing, creating a distinctive textured pattern. Found at sites like Sarutaru and Daojali Hading, this tradition is a major technological and stylistic marker for the region. The widespread presence of cord-impressed ware also suggests prehistoric cultural connections with Southeast Asia and Southern China, where similar ceramic styles were also prevalent.

182. (B) All Mesolithic communities practiced a uniform subsistence strategy regardless of location.

Mesolithic populations in India were characterized by diverse ecological adaptations rather than a uniform subsistence strategy. Groups in the Gangetic plains exploited riverine and aquatic resources, while those in the semi-arid west adapted to sand-dune environments. In the forested Vindhyan hills, people utilized the rich flora and fauna of the highlands, and coastal communities focused on marine resources. This flexibility in diet, technology, and settlement patterns allowed Mesolithic hunter-gatherers to successfully colonize almost every environmental niche across the subcontinent.

183. (D) types of tools and their frequencies differed between geographical areas.

Regional variations in Mesolithic tool assemblages mean that the specific composition of stone tools was not identical across all of India. For instance, some regions show a high proportion of geometric microliths like triangles and trapezes, while others are dominated by non-geometric blades. These differences reflect adaptations to local raw materials and varying subsistence needs, such as a greater focus on fishing or plant processing. Such diversity indicates that the Mesolithic was a collection of regional cultures with their own specialized tool-making traditions.

184. (A) provides a comparative sequence for the developments seen at the nearby site of Mehrgarh.

Kili-Gul-Muhammad, located in the Quetta Valley, is a vital early farming site in Baluchistan. Its archaeological sequence is primarily important because it provides a comparative record for the developments documented at Mehrgarh. By studying both sites, researchers can identify regional patterns in the transition to sedentary life, the introduction of pottery, and the domestication of plants and animals. Together, these sites confirm that the Baluchistan borderlands were a primary and connected center for the independent emergence of Neolithic cultures in South Asia.

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172. (B) Uttnur

Uttnur is one of the most famous and well-studied ash-mound sites of the Southern Neolithic, located in the Mahbubnagar district of Telangana. Like Piklihal and Sanganakallu, it represents a specialized pastoral activity focused on cattle-keeping. Excavations at Uttnur provided clear evidence that the mound was formed by the intentional and periodic burning of accumulated cattle dung within livestock enclosures. These sites are the defining archaeological markers of the agro-pastoral communities that inhabited the semi-arid granite plateaus of the Southern Deccan.

173. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Mesolithic toolkit, dominated by microliths, represented a significant advance in technological efficiency. These tiny, sharp stone pieces were designed to be versatile components for composite tools. By hafting multiple microliths into a single handle made of wood or bone, prehistoric groups could create complex implements like barbed arrows, harpoons, and sickles. If a component broke, it could be easily replaced without discarding the entire tool. This adaptability allowed Mesolithic hunter-gatherers to tailor their equipment to diverse tasks and environments.

174. (D) It shows habitation on granite hills, circular huts, and a rich lithic industry.

Teklakota is a prominent Southern Neolithic site located in the Bellary district of Karnataka. It is a classic example of a hill-top settlement, where communities lived on the terraces of granite outcrops. Excavations revealed circular hut structures with paved floors and a diverse industry of stone and bone tools. The site provides comprehensive evidence of the Southern Neolithic lifestyle, which combined millet cultivation with intensive cattle pastoralism. Teklakota remains one of the largest and most significant settlements for studying prehistoric peninsular India.

175. (A) procurement of food versus the production of food.

The fundamental difference between the Mesolithic and Neolithic lies in their primary subsistence strategy. Mesolithic groups were hunter-gatherers who relied on the procurement of food through the passive exploitation of wild resources. In contrast, the Neolithic marks the transition to food production, where humans began to actively manage and breed specific plant and animal species. This shift from foraging to farming fundamentally altered human society, leading to permanent settlements, social complexity, and a dramatic increase in the carrying capacity of the environment.

176. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Nagarjunakonda is a vital archaeological site located in the Krishna valley of Andhra Pradesh. Although most of the site is now submerged under the waters of the Nagarjuna Sagar dam, extensive salvage excavations were conducted before its completion. These investigations revealed important remains from several periods, including significant Neolithic deposits. The findings included circular huts, various stone tools, and evidence of agro-pastoral life. Nagarjunakonda remains a key site for understanding the regional Neolithic sequence and later historical developments in southern India.

177. (B) Sanganakallu

Koldihwa, Mahagara, and Lahuradewa are all key Neolithic sites located within the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region. They are significant for providing evidence of early rice cultivation and cord-impressed pottery in this part of India. Sanganakallu, however, is a prominent Neolithic site situated in the southern peninsular region, specifically in the Bellary district of Karnataka. It belongs to the Southern Neolithic tradition, which features different economic patterns, such as ash-mounds and cattle pastoralism, compared to the Ganga valley sites.

178. (A) technological development and increasing specialization in craft production.

The appearance of both handmade and wheel-made pottery in the later levels of Mehrgarh indicates a significant technological progression. While early stages relied on simple manual techniques, the introduction of the potter's wheel

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the oldest in this sequence. Mesolithic groups later inhabited sand dunes in western India as the climate shifted during the early Holocene. The aceramic Neolithic village at Mehrgarh represents the first major transition toward sedentary farming in South Asia. The Southern Neolithic ash-mound sites appeared much later, signifying a specialized pastoral economy focused on intensive cattle-keeping in the peninsular region of the Deccan.

206. (D) near the sea, on beaches, estuaries, or lagoons.

A coastal site in Mesolithic studies refers to a human occupation located in proximity to the sea. These sites are typically found near beaches, estuaries, or tidal lagoons where inhabitants could exploit diverse marine and brackish water resources. Evidence from such locations often includes shell middens, fish bones, and specialized tools for aquatic activities. Coastal adaptations represent one of the many specialized ecological strategies developed by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers during the Holocene, highlighting their flexibility in utilizing the various environments of the Indian subcontinent.

207. (A) The North-Eastern region

Sarutaru and Selbalgiri are significant Neolithic sites located in the North-Eastern region of India, specifically in the states of Assam and Meghalaya respectively. They belong to the North-Eastern Neolithic complex, which is archaeologically defined by the presence of polished stone tools, including shouldered celts, and cord-impressed pottery. These sites represent a distinct regional tradition adapted to the hilly and forested environments of the North-East and show strong cultural affinities with the prehistoric traditions of neighboring Southeast Asian and Southern Chinese territories.

208. (B) being a major center for the manufacture of polished stone axes.

Sanganakallu, located in the Bellary district of Karnataka, is one of the most important Neolithic sites in South India. It is particularly renowned as a major factory site for the large-scale production of polished stone tools. Excavations uncovered massive accumulations of tool-making debris, including unfinished axes, chips, and hammerstones. This evidence indicates that Sanganakallu was a specialized hub of craft activity, supplying ground stone implements to other contemporary communities across the region, reflecting the organized nature of Southern Neolithic technology.

209. (B) A and C are both correct and significant distinctions.

The Epi-Palaeolithic of West Asia and the Mesolithic of Europe are both post-glacial adaptations of late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers. However, they are distinguished by their geographical location and their eventual cultural outcomes. The Epi-Palaeolithic is a transitional stage that directly led to the independent development of agriculture in the Fertile Crescent. In contrast, the European Mesolithic represents a stable hunter-gatherer adaptation that did not lead to an indigenous transition to farming; instead, agriculture was later introduced to the continent from West Asia.

210. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Southern Neolithic economy was a specialized agro-pastoral system rather than a purely pastoral one. While the massive ash-mounds clearly demonstrate the central importance of cattle, botanical evidence from excavated sites confirms that these communities also practiced agriculture. At sites like Hallur and Teklakota, archaeologists have found charred remains of millets like ragi and various pulses. This mixed strategy allowed these groups to successfully inhabit the semi-arid Deccan by combining the products of their herds with hardy, drought-resistant cultivated crops.

211. (A) 1, 2, 3, and 5

Indian Neolithic sites are categorized into distinct regional complexes. Nagarjunakonda represents the Southern Neolithic in Andhra Pradesh, while Chechar and Baidyapur are key sites in the Eastern Neolithic tradition of Bihar and Odisha respectively. Marakdola belongs to the North-Eastern Neolithic in Assam. However, Selbalgiri is also a North-Eastern Neolithic site in Meghalaya rather than a southern ash-mound site. These locations collectively illustrate the broad distribution and regional diversity of early farming and pastoral communities that developed across the entire Indian subcontinent.

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185. (C) 1, 2 and 3

The Neolithic culture of Kashmir, with key sites like Burzahom and Gufkral, is distinguished by several unique features. A hallmark of this tradition is the construction of subterranean dwelling pits, which provided insulation in the cold climate. These communities also possessed a highly developed and diverse industry of tools made from bone and antler. However, ash-mounds are not a feature of the Kashmir Neolithic. Ash-mounds are a specific and unique characteristic of the Southern Neolithic pastoralist culture in the Deccan plateau.

186. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Daojali Hading is a pivotal North-Eastern Neolithic site situated in the North Cachar Hills of Assam. Excavations revealed characteristic artifacts of the region, specifically shouldered stone celts and cord-marked pottery. However, due to the acidic nature of the tropical soil and the humid climate, organic materials like faunal or floral remains have not survived at the site. This lack of organic evidence makes it challenging to reconstruct the specific subsistence practices of the community, although the stone tools clearly indicate a Neolithic technology.

187. (D) Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic

The European Mesolithic is a transitional period that chronologically follows the Upper Palaeolithic and precedes the Neolithic. It began at the end of the last Ice Age, around 10,000 BCE, and continued until the adoption of agriculture. During this time, hunter-gatherer groups adapted to the warming post-glacial environment. This stage represents the final phase of foraging societies in Europe before the revolutionary shift to food production and permanent village life that characterized the subsequent Neolithic period across the continent.

188. (B) It was centered on the cultivation of wheat, barley, and pulses, and the herding of sheep, goats, and cattle.

Food production in the West Asian Neolithic was based on a specific suite of domesticates often referred to as the Neolithic package. This included the cultivation of cereals like wheat and barley, along with various pulses. Animal husbandry focused on the controlled breeding of sheep, goats, cattle, and pigs. This integrated system of agriculture and pastoralism provided a stable and abundant food supply, supporting the emergence of the world's first sedentary farming villages within the geographical region known as the Fertile Crescent.

189. (C) a change in social organization or household structure.

Changes in house shapes during the West Asian Neolithic are often interpreted as reflections of evolving social structures. The shift from circular houses in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A to rectangular ones in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B likely signifies a change in family organization and the concept of private space. A subsequent return to more circular or segmented structures in some areas during the later Neolithic might indicate a reorganization of the household or a shift in the way domestic space and property were shared among the community.

190. (B) 2, 3 and 4

Neolithic sites in India are distributed across various regional complexes. Piklihal and Sanganakallu are both prominent Southern Neolithic sites located in the peninsular state of Karnataka. In contrast, Chirand and Senuwar are significant sites in the Eastern Neolithic tradition of Bihar, and Koldihwa belongs to the Central Ganga and Vindhyan Neolithic in Uttar Pradesh. Kuchai is another Eastern Neolithic site located in Odisha. These sites illustrate the distinct regional adaptations and cultural trajectories of early farming communities across the Indian subcontinent.

191. (A) the site's location in an alluvial environment with abundant riverine and hunted animal resources.

The exceptional bone tool industry at Chirand in Bihar is primarily explained by its favorable ecological setting. Situated in the Middle Ganga plains near major river confluences, the site was surrounded by rich aquatic and terrestrial environments. The inhabitants engaged in intensive hunting and fishing alongside agriculture, providing a steady supply of animal bones and antlers. This abundant raw material allowed them to develop a sophisticated

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exclusively made of stone, bone, and wood, with no knowledge of metallurgy.

165. (B) 1, 3 and 4

Mesolithic populations in India were highly adaptable, exploiting a wide range of environments from coastal estuaries to inland rock-shelters. They built temporary structures like huts and wind-breaks, indicating a semi-mobile or seasonally sedentary lifestyle. Artistic expression was a key part of their culture, as seen in the extensive rock paintings of central India. However, their technology was characterized by small, specialized microliths rather than heavy-duty chopper tools, which are typical of the much earlier Lower Palaeolithic period.

166. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Kili-Gul-Muhammad is an important early farming site in Baluchistan, but its earliest levels are not aceramic. Instead, they show the use of coarse, handmade pottery alongside early signs of agriculture and pastoralism. The ceramics found in later levels at the site exhibit clear stylistic similarities with other regional traditions, such as the Togau and Kechi Beg wares. These links demonstrate that Kili-Gul-Muhammad was part of a broader network of cultural and technological interaction within the Neolithic Baluchistan borderlands.

167. (D) slow, gradual process of domestication over millennia.

The Neolithic revolution in West Asia was not a sudden or violent event, but a very slow and gradual transition. It involved thousands of years of human interaction with wild plants and animals, leading to the eventual biological changes associated with domestication. This process began with incipient management by late Epi-Palaeolithic groups and culminated in the established farming villages of the Neolithic. This long-term evolution fundamentally transformed human society, but it was a non-linear process that occurred over many generations.

168. (A) An enclosure interpreted as a cattle pen

Mahagara is a significant Neolithic site in the Vindhyan region known for its unique structural evidence. Excavations revealed a large enclosure defined by a series of post-holes, which archaeologists have interpreted as a communal cattle pen. This find is crucial as it provides direct evidence of animal husbandry and the importance of livestock in the early farming communities of the Belan Valley. Such specialized structures indicate a well-organized and stable sedentary life based on both agriculture and the management of domestic animals.

169. (C) Its bone tool industry is rudimentary and sparse.

Chirand, located on the northern bank of the Ganga in Bihar, is a major Neolithic site known for its developed sedentary life and agricultural economy. Most significantly, it is famous for its exceptionally rich and sophisticated bone tool industry. Inhabitants crafted a wide variety of tools and ornaments from bone and antler, reflecting a high level of craftsmanship. The site has also yielded evidence for a diverse range of cultivated crops, including rice, wheat, and barley, representing a successful alluvial adaptation.

170. (A) North-Eastern shouldered celt.

A polished stone tool with a distinct shoulder or tenon at the butt end is the classic technological signature of the North-Eastern Neolithic in India. These shouldered celts were designed for secure hafting into wooden or bone handles and are common across Assam and surrounding areas. This specific tool type is not found in the Southern Neolithic or Kashmir traditions. Its presence in the North-East suggests strong prehistoric cultural links with Southeast Asia and Southern China, where similar shouldered stone implements are widely documented.

171. (D) on the flat, fertile land deposited by a river.

An alluvial plain site refers to a prehistoric settlement situated on the fertile, flat terrain formed by the accumulation of silt and clay from seasonal river flooding. These environments, like the Ganga valley, were highly attractive to Mesolithic and Neolithic groups due to their rich soil, abundant water, and diverse flora and fauna. In the context of Indian prehistory, sites in alluvial plains often reflect specialized adaptations to riverine resources and provided the foundational settings for the early development of sedentary agriculture.

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stronger and more durable, with a sharp, resilient edge. Such implements were essential for the new subsistence activities of the Neolithic, such as clearing forests for agricultural fields and crafting timber for more permanent housing, marking a fundamental shift in the human ability to manipulate the environment.

199. (D) Daojali Hading - Cord-marked pottery

Neolithic sites in India are often identified by their characteristic artifacts. Daojali Hading in Assam is a classic example of a North-Eastern site defined by cord-marked or cord-impressed pottery. In contrast, Lahuradewa is significant for very early rice evidence rather than ash-mounds, which are characteristic of southern sites like Uttnur. Mahagara is known for its structural remains like cattle pens rather than being an aceramic site. These distinct markers illustrate the diverse regional trajectories of Neolithic cultural development across the different parts of the Indian subcontinent.

200. (C) 1, 2 and 3

The Indian Mesolithic period is characterized by the ubiquitous use of microliths and the distribution of sites across almost every ecological zone. Artistic expression through rock art, notably in central India, was also a major cultural feature. However, Mesolithic populations were hunter-gatherers and did not practice settled agriculture. While they were highly successful foragers who exploited a wide range of wild resources, the transition to a sedentary farming lifestyle is the defining economic shift that marks the subsequent Neolithic period.

201. (C) Assam

Marakdola is a significant Neolithic site located in the North-Eastern region of India, specifically in the state of Assam. It is grouped with other important sites like Sarutaru and Daojali Hading that define the regional Neolithic complex. These sites are identified by the presence of polished stone tools, including shouldered celts, and cord-impressed pottery. Marakdola provides important evidence for the early transition toward sedentary life in the forested hills and plains of the North-East, reflecting a distinct regional adaptation to the local environment.

202. (A) hunting continued to be an important supplementary economic activity.

The presence of both wild and domesticated animal bones at early Neolithic sites demonstrates that the transition to food production was a gradual process. While communities began to breed specific animals like cattle or sheep, they did not immediately abandon traditional foraging practices. Hunting provided a valuable source of supplementary protein and variety in the diet. This mixed subsistence strategy allowed early farmers to diversify their food sources and reduce the risks associated with an exclusive reliance on newly domesticated and sometimes unpredictable livestock.

203. (D) The site is famous for its unique pit-dwelling architecture.

Piklihal is a critical Southern Neolithic site located in Karnataka. It is well-known for providing evidence of both a residential area and an ash-mound, which was interpreted by excavator F.R. Allchin as a result of specialized cattle pastoralism. However, Piklihal is not characterized by pit-dwelling architecture. Subterranean pit-dwellings are the hallmark of the Kashmir Neolithic tradition at sites like Burzahom. Southern Neolithic sites typically feature circular or rectangular huts built on the surface, often on the terraces of granite hills.

204. (B) large ash-mounds.

The Neolithic culture of the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region is characterized by settled life, the cultivation of rice, and the use of cord-impressed pottery. Communities lived in circular huts built with wattle-and-daub. However, large ash-mounds are not a feature of this region. Ash-mounds are a unique and identifying characteristic of the Southern Neolithic culture in the Deccan, specifically linked to their specialized cattle pastoralism. Each regional Neolithic tradition in India possesses its own distinct set of archaeological and economic markers adapted to the local environment.

205. (A) 4, 2, 3, 1

The prehistory of India is reflected in a chronological sequence of distinct site types. Flake-tool sites of the Middle Palaeolithic are

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technological tradition focused on organic materials, which they crafted into a diverse array of specialized tools.

192. (B) Selbalgiri

Chirand, Chechar, and Senuwar are all key Eastern Neolithic sites located in the alluvial plains of Bihar. They represent the spread of settled farming and specialized tool industries in the Middle Ganga region. Selbalgiri, however, is a significant Neolithic site situated in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya. It belongs to the North-Eastern Neolithic complex, which is characterized by a different set of technological and cultural traits, such as shouldered stone celts, adapted to the hilly and forest-rich environment of the North-East.

193. (B) The process was a result of a brilliant invention by one person.

The transition to the Neolithic in West Asia was a complex and gradual process that spanned millennia. It was not a single brilliant invention but a long-term result of late Epi-Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers interacting with their environment. Favorable factors included the presence of wild ancestors for many key domesticates and the climatic stability of the early Holocene. This evolutionary shift involved thousands of small changes in human behavior and plant-animal biology, eventually leading to the settled farming lifestyle that transformed human history across the region.

194. (A) Assam

Sarutaru is a significant Neolithic site located in the Kamrup district of Assam. It is a representative site of the North-Eastern Neolithic tradition, identified by the presence of polished stone tools, including shouldered celts, and cord-impressed pottery. These artifacts are found in several locations across the hilly and forested regions of Assam and surrounding areas. Sarutaru provides important evidence for the early transition toward settled life in the North-East and reflects cultural affinities with prehistoric communities in neighboring Southeast Asian territories.

195. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Micro-blade technology represented a major advance in lithic efficiency during the Mesolithic. By carefully preparing a core, knappers could remove dozens of thin, sharp, and standardized blades from a single small piece of raw material like chert or chalcedony. This method maximized the utility of high-quality stone, which was often scarce. These micro-blades were then modified and hafted into composite tools, making them an extremely economical and versatile way to produce high-performance equipment for hunting, gathering, and various daily subsistence tasks.

196. (D) The Southern Peninsula

Ash-mounds are a unique and identifying archaeological feature of the Neolithic period in the southern peninsula of India. Found across the Deccan plateau in states like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, these mounds are composed of massive accumulations of vitrified cattle dung. They resulted from the periodic burning of dung in livestock enclosures, signifying a specialized pastoral economy focused on cattle-keeping. Ash-mounds are not found in any other Neolithic region of India, making them a distinctive cultural marker of the southern agro-pastoral communities.

197. (C) settled agricultural life could exist before pottery.

Period I at Mehrgarh is archaeologically significant because it represents an aceramic Neolithic society. Excavations revealed that the inhabitants lived in permanent mud-brick houses and practiced a developed agricultural economy based on wheat and barley, even though they did not yet produce ceramic vessels. This discovery proved that the fundamental shift to sedentary life and food production preceded the invention of pottery in South Asia. Mehrgarh demonstrated that a sophisticated farming village could thrive using other types of containers for storage and daily use.

198. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Polished stone tools, particularly celts or axes, are the technological hallmark of the Neolithic period. Unlike the knapped stone tools of earlier stages, these were shaped by intensive grinding and polishing. This process made the tools much

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212. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Indian Mesolithic is characterized by significant regional diversity in its stone tool assemblages. This variation is a direct result of human groups adapting to different ecological niches across the subcontinent, from desert dunes to riverine plains. Furthermore, the availability of different types of raw materials, such as chert, chalcedony, or quartz, influenced tool-making techniques and styles. Far from being a uniform culture, the Mesolithic was a mosaic of regional traditions, each with its own specialized subsistence strategy and optimized technological toolkit.

213. (C) It began simultaneously with identical species all over the world.

The transition to food production was a complex and non-linear process that occurred independently in several primary centers across the globe. However, it did not happen simultaneously nor did it involve identical species. Different regions domesticated plants and animals that were locally available; for example, wheat in West Asia, rice in China, and maize in the Americas. This regional diversity in domesticates and timelines highlights how the Neolithic revolution was a series of indigenous responses to specific environmental and social conditions worldwide.

214. (B) Uttar Pradesh

Lahuradewa is a transformative archaeological site located in the Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. It is situated in the Middle Ganga plains, a region now recognized as a very early center for the development of agriculture in South Asia. Excavations at Lahuradewa have provided groundbreaking evidence for cultivated rice with radio-carbon dates that are significantly older than previously recorded. This discovery has major implications for the history of food production, suggesting that the Ganga valley played a primary role in agricultural origins.

215. (D) manufacturing center or 'factory site'.

The discovery of massive quantities of tool debris, hammerstones, and unfinished artifacts at Sanganakallu indicates that the site functioned as a specialized center for stone tool production. As a Neolithic factory site, it was a hub where raw stone was systematically processed into polished axes and other ground stone implements. This concentrated industrial activity suggests a high degree of organization and indicates that Sanganakallu supplied essential tools to surrounding communities, reflecting the economic and technological complexity of the Southern Neolithic cultural complex.

216. (A) exclusive reliance on big-game hunting.

The Neolithic stage is fundamentally defined by the transition from food procurement to food production. Key characteristics include the cultivation of plants, animal domestication, and the manufacture of pottery and ground stone tools. These innovations supported a sedentary lifestyle in permanent villages. In contrast, an exclusive reliance on big-game hunting is a characteristic of earlier Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer societies. The Neolithic represented a shift away from this specialized foraging strategy toward a more stable and managed economy based on agriculture and pastoralism.

217. (B) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

Neolithic cultures in India are identified by unique technological and cultural markers. The Kashmir Neolithic is famous for its specialized bone harpoons and dwelling pits. The Eastern Neolithic, particularly at Chirand, is distinguished by a diverse industry of antler pick-axes and other bone tools. The North-Eastern Neolithic is characterized by the use of shouldered celts. The Southern Neolithic is uniquely identified by the presence of pastoral ash-mounds. These regional variations reflect the independent trajectories of early farming and pastoral communities across the subcontinent.

218. (A) It is an ash-mound site located in the Shorapur doab of Karnataka.

Kodekal is a well-known Neolithic ash-mound site situated in the Shorapur doab region of Karnataka. Like other ash-mounds in the southern peninsula, it represents a specialized pastoral activity focused on cattle-keeping. The mound was formed by the periodic and intentional burning of accumulated dung in livestock enclosures. While it has yielded typical Southern Neolithic artifacts, it is primarily significant as

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part of the regional tradition that highlights the central role of cattle in the economy and rituals of the prehistoric Deccan.

219. (D) complex process with varied timelines and trajectories across regions.

The transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic in India was not a single, uniform event. Instead, it was a highly complex and regionalized process. Different parts of the subcontinent adopted food production and sedentary life at different times and in diverse ways. In some areas, there was a gradual evolution from local Mesolithic bases, while in others, new domesticates and technologies were introduced from neighboring regions. This diversity highlights the multiple origins and varied environmental contexts of the Neolithic revolution throughout the subcontinent.

220. (B) intense heat generated by periodic burning of accumulated dung.

The vitrification observed in Southern Neolithic ash-mounds is a direct result of extremely high temperatures. Archaeologists have determined that these mounds were formed when massive accumulations of cattle dung in pastoral enclosures were intentionally set on fire. The large volume of dung acted as fuel, generating enough heat to melt and fuse the silicates in the waste, resulting in the glass-like, vitrified material characteristic of these mounds. This periodic burning was a significant cultural and potentially ritualistic practice among the Neolithic pastoralists.

221. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Neolithic communities of the southern peninsula adopted a specialized subsistence strategy based on the cultivation of millets, such as ragi. These grains are exceptionally hardy and drought-resistant, making them perfectly suited to the semi-arid climate and unpredictable rainfall of the Deccan plateau. This agricultural choice, combined with intensive cattle pastoralism, allowed these groups to create a stable and successful economy on the granite hill landscapes of the peninsula. Ragi remains a staple crop in these regions even today.

222. (D) Senuwar

Senuwar is a major Eastern Neolithic site located in the Rohtas district of Bihar. It provides a comprehensive view of early agricultural life in the Middle Ganga plains, showing a multi-crop economy that included rice, wheat, and barley. In contrast, Kuchai and Baidyapur are Neolithic sites located in Odisha, and Sarutaru belongs to the North-Eastern Neolithic complex in Assam. Senuwar is particularly significant for its long cultural sequence that shows a continuous development from the Neolithic into the subsequent Chalcolithic period.

223. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the explanation of A.

The term incipient food production describes a late Mesolithic stage where hunter-gatherer groups begin to manipulate their environment in ways that foreshadow agriculture. While not yet practicing full-scale farming, evidence like the intensive collection of wild grains and the use of grinding stones suggests a move toward managing plant resources. These activities represent the behavioral transition that eventually led to the Neolithic revolution. In parts of India, this stage highlights the local origins and gradual nature of the shift from foraging to food production.

224. (B) Daojali Hading - Uttar Pradesh

Archaeological sites in the Indian subcontinent are linked to specific geographic regions. Chirand is a famous Neolithic site in Bihar, and Sanganakallu is a major center in Karnataka. Burzahom is the quintessential Neolithic site of the Kashmir valley. However, Daojali Hading is located in the North Cachar Hills of Assam, rather than Uttar Pradesh. It is a representative site of the North-Eastern Neolithic tradition, identified by its shouldered stone axes and cord-marked pottery, which show prehistoric cultural links with neighboring Southeast Asian territories.

225. (B) Mesolithic to Neolithic.

A stratigraphic sequence showing a shift from purely microlithic tools to polished stone celts and pottery represents the transition from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic. This succession marks a fundamental change in both technology and lifestyle. The appearance of ground stone axes and ceramics, alongside evidence of animal bones and food remains, signifies the move from

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a mobile hunter-gatherer existence to a more settled, food-producing economy. Such sites are crucial for understanding the gradual and regional nature of the Neolithic revolution in India.

226. (A) farming villages and domesticated plants and animals.

The Neolithic stage in West Asia is archaeologically defined by the appearance of the world's first sedentary farming communities. This transformation was based on the domestication of cereals like wheat and barley, and livestock such as sheep and goats. These early villages featured permanent architecture and new technologies like ground stone tools. This fundamental shift from a nomadic foraging existence to a settled food-producing economy occurred in the Fertile Crescent and laid the socioeconomic foundations for all subsequent urban civilizations in the region.

227. (C) Holocene

The Mesolithic culture of the Indian subcontinent is broadly contemporary with the Holocene epoch, which began approximately 11,700 years ago following the end of the last Ice Age. This period was characterized by a warming climate and increased rainfall, which led to significant environmental changes across the subcontinent. Mesolithic hunter-gatherer groups successfully adapted to these new post-glacial conditions, exploiting a wide range of flora and fauna. The Holocene environment provided the ecological setting for the subsequent transition to the Neolithic and the rise of agriculture.

228. (D) Wheat and Barley

Wheat and barley were the two primary cereal crops that formed the agricultural basis of the Neolithic revolution in West Asia. Domesticated in the Fertile Crescent during the early Holocene, these grains provided a stable and storable food supply that supported the emergence of permanent villages. Along with the herding of sheep and goats, the cultivation of wheat and barley transformed human subsistence and laid the foundation for the complex social and economic developments that eventually led to urban civilization in the ancient Near East.

229. (A) 1, 2 and 4

The Southern Neolithic culture is identified by a specific technological and economic package. This includes the use of ground stone celts (polished axes) and handmade pottery, typically in grey or buff-brown colors. Their subsistence was based on an agro-pastoral economy, including the cultivation of hardy millets like ragi. However, microlithic trapezes are characteristic of the earlier Mesolithic period and are not a defining feature of the Neolithic tradition in the peninsula. The Southern Neolithic represents a distinct adaptation to the semi-arid environment of the Deccan plateau.

230. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Excavations at the Southern Neolithic site of Piklihal have provided clear structural evidence for pastoral activities. Archaeologists discovered massive post-holes and stockades located within the perimeter of the ash-mound area, which were interpreted as the remains of robust cattle pens. This find, alongside the thick accumulations of vitrified dung that form the mound itself, confirms the central importance of animal husbandry. These structures provided protection for large herds, reflecting the specialized and well-organized cattle-based economy of the Neolithic communities in the Deccan.

231. (D) efficiency and versatility in creating composite tools.

The primary advantage of microlithic technology was its incredible versatility in crafting composite tools. Instead of relying on a single, large piece of stone, Mesolithic groups produced tiny, standardized blades that could be hafted into wooden, bone, or antler handles. This allowed for the creation of complex implements like barbed arrows, harpoons, and sickles. These tools were lightweight, aerodynamic, and easily repaired by replacing individual microliths. This innovation greatly enhanced the efficiency and precision of foraging activities in the diverse environments of the Holocene.

232. (A) an initial reliance on rice cultivation.

The early farming communities of Baluchistan, as seen at Mehrgarh, were based on a specific set of agricultural domesticates. From the earliest

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clearance and farming. While earlier periods relied on chipped stone, this phase is marked by the development of ground and polished stone tools. Specifically, the production of celts allowed for more durable and efficient tools, which were essential for the intensive labor required in agricultural economies.

261. (D) The use of micro-blade technology to create microliths.

This period is characterized by a significant shift in stone tool production toward the manufacture of micro-blades. These small stone artifacts, including both geometric and non-geometric forms, were crafted from fine-grained minerals like chert and chalcedony. This microlithic industry allowed for the creation of versatile composite tools, reflecting a high level of technological innovation in the subcontinent.

262. (B) Adaptations to different ecological zones and raw materials.

Human groups across the Indian subcontinent occupied a wide variety of environments, ranging from arid deserts to alluvial plains. The differences seen in stone tool collections reflect how these populations adapted to local ecological niches. These variations were further influenced by the availability of specific raw materials, such as quartz or chalcedony, found in different geographical regions.

263. (C) A gradual process leading towards a food-producing economy.

Archaeological evidence from this phase suggests that the transition to agriculture was not a sudden revolution but a slow evolutionary process. Certain sites indicate intensive resource management and selective hunting patterns. Additionally, the possible presence of rudimentary horticulture or the manipulation of wild plants demonstrates a complex bridge between pure extraction and the later productive economies of the Neolithic.

264. (D) As components hafted onto shafts to form composite tools.

Small stone flakes produced during this era were rarely used as individual tools. Instead, they were designed to be mounted onto bone or wooden handles. By hafting these microliths, ancient populations could create more complex and effective implements like arrows, spears, or harpoons. This technological advancement significantly improved the efficiency of hunting and gathering activities across diverse environments.

265. (A) Primarily based on hunting-gathering with early signs of resource management.

The subsistence strategy of this period remained rooted in the extraction of wild resources through hunting and foraging. However, it was not a static system, as evidence shows developing patterns of environmental manipulation. These include selective hunting and the management of certain plant species, which served as the cultural and economic foundation for the subsequent development of agriculture.

266. (B) The adaptive flexibility of Mesolithic populations to diverse ecologies.

Archaeological remains are scattered across vastly different landscapes, including river valleys, coastal regions, and arid deserts. This widespread presence highlights the ability of human communities to modify their subsistence strategies to fit specific environments. Such resilience allowed these groups to successfully colonize and exploit a broad range of ecological niches throughout the Indian subcontinent during this period.

267. (B) Shell middens.

Along both the eastern and western seaboards of the subcontinent, Mesolithic communities developed specialized economies. These populations relied heavily on marine and estuarine resources for survival. The discarded remains of shellfish, accumulated over long periods of occupation, formed large mounds known as shell middens. These features serve as distinct archaeological markers of prehistoric coastal adaptation and subsistence patterns.

268. (A) Both occupation deposits and rock art.

Locations found within the Vindhyan and Kaimur ranges provide a comprehensive view of prehistoric life. They contain stratified layers of archaeological material that document long-term human habitation. Furthermore, these sites feature vibrant rock art depicting hunting, social

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239. (A) calcareous nature of the alluvial soil.

The remarkable preservation of the extensive bone tool industry at Chirand in Bihar is due to the specific chemical properties of the local environment. The site is situated in an alluvial setting where the soil is naturally rich in calcium carbonate. This calcareous nature prevents the acidic decay that typically destroys organic materials in tropical climates. Consequently, thousands of delicate bone and antler implements have survived for millennia, providing archaeologists with an exceptionally detailed record of the specialized Neolithic technology and craftsmanship practiced in the Ganga plains.

240. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Ash-mounds are indeed a unique and defining archaeological feature of the Southern Neolithic culture. Scientific analysis has confirmed that these massive mounds were formed by the intentional and periodic burning of accumulated cattle dung within pastoral enclosures. This practice directly reflects the immense economic and ritual importance of cattle to the prehistoric communities of the Deccan. The ash-mounds serve as a permanent, visible record of the specialized animal husbandry that was the foundation of their agro-pastoral lifestyle and social organization.

241. (B) Mesolithic

Coastal sites are a specific pattern of ecological adaptation associated with the Mesolithic period in India. During the early Holocene, rising sea levels created productive estuaries and lagoons, which attracted hunter-gatherer groups. These populations adapted to the maritime environment by exploiting marine resources such as fish, mollusks, and sea birds. Evidence from these locations, often in the form of shell middens and microliths, demonstrates the high degree of human flexibility and the ability of Mesolithic groups to successfully utilize diverse environments across the subcontinent.

242. (A) It shows an overlap phase between the Neolithic and the Iron Age.

Hallur is a key Southern Neolithic site located in Karnataka that provides important evidence for technological transition. Excavations revealed a cultural sequence where the final Neolithic stages overlap with the beginning of the Iron Age. This is indicated by the appearance of iron artifacts alongside traditional ground stone tools. Furthermore, Hallur has yielded significant botanical evidence, specifically the cultivation of ragi (finger millet). The site remains essential for understanding the long-term economic and technological evolution of the agro-pastoral communities in the semi-arid Deccan plateau.

243. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Neolithic revolution was a global phenomenon that fundamentally transformed human society by introducing food production. However, it was not a single, synchronized event. Instead, the transition to agriculture occurred independently in several primary centers at different times and in diverse environmental contexts. Each region domesticated its own set of local plants and animals, such as wheat in West Asia, rice in China, and maize in the Americas. This regional diversity highlights the multiple, autonomous origins of settled farming life across the prehistoric world.

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244. (D) Teklakota

Chirand, Chechar, and Senuwar are all prominent Eastern Neolithic sites located in the Middle Ganga plains of Bihar. They are characterized by settled agricultural life and specialized tool industries. Teklakota, however, is a major Neolithic settlement situated in the southern peninsular region of Karnataka. It belongs to the Southern Neolithic tradition, which features different economic patterns, such as intensive cattle pastoralism and ash-mounds, compared to the eastern sites. This distinction highlights the regional diversity and separate cultural trajectories of Neolithic communities across India.

245. (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

Neolithic sites in the Indian subcontinent are distributed across distinct geographical and cultural regions. Uttnur is a quintessential Southern Neolithic ash-mound site in the peninsula. Lahuradewa is a significant site in the

294. (B) The abundance of grinding stones and mullers.

Although the preservation of plant remains is often poor in the humid environments of this region, other artifacts provide clues about subsistence. The frequent discovery of stone tools designed specifically for processing grains indicates that agriculture was a central part of the economy. These grinding implements, used to turn seeds into flour, strongly support the existence of a food-producing society.

295. (C) Define a distinct zone of Neolithic culture in North-East India.

These sites collectively reveal a unique set of material remains that differentiate the region from the rest of South Asia. By yielding specific artifacts like shouldered celts and cord-impressed pottery, they establish the Northeast as an independent and crucial area of cultural evolution. These locations serve as the primary evidence for a regional Neolithic tradition with its own distinct trajectory.

296. (D) They resulted from the periodic burning of cattle dung in enclosures.

Found at sites across the Deccan plateau, these large, vitrified mounds have long puzzled archaeologists. The most supported explanation is that they were formed by the intentional, seasonal burning of accumulated animal waste within cattle pens. This practice highlights the central importance of cattle, both economically and potentially ritually, to the communities that inhabited these prehistoric South Indian settlements.

297. (A) Agro-pastoral, with a strong emphasis on cattle herding.

The subsistence system of the southern peninsula was characterized by a balanced reliance on both farming and livestock. While agricultural activities were present, the herding of cattle was the dominant feature of their way of life. This agro-pastoral model was perfectly suited to the local environment, where domesticated herds provided a stable source of food, materials, and social status.

298. (B) Millets and pulses.

The agricultural system of this region was highly adapted to the semi-arid climate of the Deccan plateau. Unlike areas that focused on water-intensive rice, southern farmers cultivated drought-resistant crops. Millets and various pulses became the staples of their diet, as these plants could thrive in the challenging environmental conditions and provided a reliable harvest for the growing agro-pastoral communities.

299. (B) On the tops of granite hills or plateaus.

Communities in prehistoric southern India frequently chose elevated terrains for their villages. Sites such as Sanganakallu were situated on the summits of prominent granite hills. This strategic positioning likely provided defensive advantages and a clear view of the surrounding landscape. Additionally, these locations placed settlements in close proximity to the rocky outcrops used for manufacturing polished stone tools.

300. (A) The introduction and rudimentary use of metal.

As the Neolithic period progressed in the southern peninsula, significant changes occurred in material technology. Archaeological evidence from sites like Hallur shows the first appearance of metal artifacts. This development marks a critical transition point where purely lithic-based industries began to incorporate copper or other metals. This shift signifies the beginning of the movement toward the subsequent Chalcolithic cultural phase.

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252. (A) The widespread use of hafted microlithic components.

Small, geometrically shaped stone flakes known as microliths defined the technology of this period. These components were not utilized in isolation but were hafted onto bone or wooden shafts to create complex composite tools such as barbed arrows and harpoons. This innovation allowed for more versatile hunting strategies in the expanding woodland environments of post-glacial Europe.

253. (C) A shift in focus from large herd animals to smaller woodland species.

As the Pleistocene ice sheets retreated and climates warmed, the open tundras were replaced by expanding forests. This ecological shift led to the disappearance of large herd animals typical of the Ice Age. Consequently, human populations adapted by targeting smaller, solitary woodland species, necessitating more flexible and diversified hunting, fishing, and gathering techniques.

254. (D) A trend towards increased sedentism and intensive wild cereal harvesting.

During this transitional phase, Levantine communities like the Natufians began moving toward a more settled way of life. They developed sophisticated ground stone toolkits specifically designed for processing plant foods. This shift included the intensive harvesting of wild cereals, which established the necessary social and economic conditions for the eventual transition to full plant and animal domestication.

255. (C) To enhance the efficiency of hunting and fishing activities.

The development of microlithic technology enabled the creation of sophisticated composite implements. By hafting small stone flakes onto various shafts, populations produced effective harpoons and barbed arrows. These specialized tools were essential for exploiting diverse ecological niches, particularly in the newly formed forests and aquatic environments that emerged after the end of the last Ice Age.

256. (B) The shift from a foraging to a food-producing economy.

This transformative period represents a major shift in human history where populations moved away from a total reliance on hunting and gathering. The development of agricultural economies through the domestication of plants and animals allowed for a more controlled food supply. This change fundamentally altered societal structures, leading to permanent settlements and significant modifications in human-environment interactions.

257. (D) Wheat and barley in West Asia; millet and rice in China.

Agricultural development occurred independently across different regions, utilizing local flora. In the Fertile Crescent of West Asia, early farmers focused on cultivating wheat and barley. Meanwhile, in China, the process was bifurcated by geography, with millet being the primary crop in the northern Yellow River valley and rice cultivation dominating the southern Yangtze River valley.

258. (A) The growth of permanent settlements and social complexity.

The ability to produce a reliable agricultural surplus through farming and animal herding supported larger, stable populations. This shift led to the establishment of permanent village life and the development of social stratification. Furthermore, these sedentary communities fostered technological advancements such as the production of pottery and the creation of polished stone tools for specialized tasks.

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259. (C) It was a complex and regionally varied process of independent innovation.

Rather than being a single, uniform event spreading from one location, the move toward agriculture happened through multiple independent innovations. Different regions across the globe developed distinct domesticates and technologies based on their specific environments. This process replaced foraging with farming as the primary subsistence mode through varied cultural trajectories in areas like West Asia and China.

260. (A) Polished stone tools known as celts.

The transition to a sedentary agricultural lifestyle necessitated specialized implements for land

marks a highly localized cultural development suited to the region's unique geography.

277. (D) The cold climatic conditions of the valley.

The use of subterranean housing is understood as a practical response to the high-altitude, temperate environment of the Kashmir valley. These pits provided natural insulation, protecting inhabitants from the harsh temperatures during the winter months. By utilizing the earth's thermal properties, the Neolithic communities created a specialized living environment that enabled them to survive and thrive in a cold climate.

278. (B) Extensive and varied collection of bone and antler implements.

Beyond stone tools, the material culture of this region is characterized by an exceptional proficiency in bone working. The toolkit includes a wide array of functional items such as needles, harpoons, scrapers, and awls. This diverse collection of bone and antler implements suggests a highly specialized economy that combined agricultural tasks with significant hunting and fishing activities in the valley.

279. (C) A combination of hunting, fishing, and agriculture.

The archaeological evidence from the valley points toward a multi-faceted approach to food procurement. While these communities practiced farming, they did not rely on it exclusively. The presence of specialized tools like harpoons indicates the importance of fishing, while bone scrapers and needles suggest a continued reliance on hunting wild game to supplement their diet in the temperate environment.

280. (D) A highly localized and specialized cultural adaptation.

The combination of subterranean pit-dwellings, a profuse bone tool industry, and distinct ceramic styles distinguishes this culture from other regional Neolithic complexes. These features represent a specific response to the unique environmental challenges of a high-altitude valley. Consequently, the Kashmir Neolithic is recognized as a separate and specialized trajectory of development within the broader history of South Asian archaeology.

281. (A) Rice cultivation and use.

This region played a critical role in the history of South Asian agriculture. Archaeological investigations at several key sites have provided some of the earliest evidence for the use of rice. This development marks the transition to a settled life in the fertile Ganga plains, where the local environment was particularly well-suited for the intensive cultivation of this specific cereal crop.

282. (B) Lahuradewa.

While older theories pointed elsewhere, recent and securely dated archaeological excavations in the Sant Kabir Nagar district have provided new insights. Findings from this site have pushed the antiquity of rice usage back significantly, potentially as far as the 7th millennium BCE. This discovery makes it the primary location for understanding the deep-rooted history of rice cultivation within the subcontinent.

283. (B) Wattle-and-daub huts.

Inhabitants of early agricultural villages in this region lived in permanent settlements consisting of circular or oval huts. These structures were built using wattle-and-daub techniques, where wooden frames were plastered with mud. The remains of these buildings, alongside hearths and post-holes, provide clear evidence for the establishment of stable, sedentary community life in the heart of the Indian subcontinent.

284. (A) A large cattle pen, indicating animal husbandry.

This specific site provides important information regarding the livestock management practices of early farming communities. Archaeologists discovered a substantial enclosure interpreted as a cattle pen, which highlights the significant role that animal herding played alongside crop cultivation. This evidence suggests a well-developed agro-pastoral system where cattle provided essential resources and supported the agricultural economy of the region.

285. (C) Cord-impressed pottery.

The pottery traditions of this Neolithic complex are distinguished by a specific surface treatment. A large portion of the ceramic assemblage

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activities, and daily routines. This combination of physical artifacts and visual representations offers researchers a unique window into the Mesolithic worldview.

269. (C) Rich aquatic and riverine resources.

The alluvial plains of the Ganga valley provided a fertile environment for Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. Settlements located near abandoned river channels or horseshoe lakes allowed for the intensive exploitation of water-based food sources. These populations combined the harvesting of fish and other aquatic species with the hunting of terrestrial game, demonstrating a well-rounded and successful adaptation to riverine ecosystems.

270. (D) Survive in arid environments with limited water.

Mesolithic groups demonstrated remarkable resilience by successfully inhabiting the challenging landscapes of western India. These sand-dune sites often featured only ephemeral water sources, yet populations adapted their survival strategies to cope with such scarcity. This ability to exploit arid and semi-arid zones underscores the technological and cultural flexibility inherent in the subsistence strategies of the subcontinent's early human communities.

271. (C) It provides a continuous record of the transition to an agro-pastoral economy.

This site in Baluchistan offers an unparalleled archaeological sequence that documents the move from foraging to farming. Its stratified layers reveal the development of permanent settlements and domestic technologies starting as early as 7000 BCE. This continuous record allows researchers to trace the gradual shift toward a sedentary life based on cereal cultivation and the management of livestock.

272. (B) When agriculture and sedentism existed without the use of pottery.

In the earliest levels of the site, populations had already adopted several key Neolithic traits. These communities lived in mud-brick houses and practiced the cultivation of domesticated crops such as wheat and barley. However, these advanced socioeconomic developments occurred before the invention and widespread adoption of ceramic technology, representing a distinct phase in the evolution of early farming societies.

273. (D) The cultivation of wheat and barley and the herding of livestock.

The subsistence system in this region was a sophisticated mixed economy. Early settlers focused on the agricultural production of specific cereals while simultaneously managing domesticated animals like cattle, sheep, and goats. This agro-pastoral model provided a stable and reliable food supply, supporting the growth of complex sedentary societies long before the emergence of the subsequent urban Harappan civilization.

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274. (A) Hunting wild animals to managing domesticated livestock.

Analysis of animal remains from the site reveals a clear transformation in human-animal relationships over time. The earliest layers show a heavy reliance on wild species obtained through hunting. As the community progressed, there was a gradual and documented transition toward the herding and breeding of sheep, goats, and cattle, indicating the establishment of a fully managed pastoral economy.

275. (C) The indigenous origins of food production in South Asia.

These archaeological sites in the northwestern subcontinent provide critical evidence that the transition to farming was a local development. By documenting the gradual move from hunter-gatherer lifeways to established agro-pastoral systems, they prove that food production in the region was not an external imposition. Instead, these findings highlight a deep-rooted, indigenous history of agricultural innovation in South Asia.

276. (A) The practice of living in subterranean and semi-subterranean dwelling pits.

Sites like Burzahom and Gufkral exhibit unique architectural adaptations not found in other parts of the subcontinent. Populations excavated circular or oval pits into the Karewa soil to create living spaces. These structures, known as pit-dwellings, often featured wooden frameworks and superstructures. This specific housing style

Central Ganga plain of Uttar Pradesh, known for early rice evidence. Daojali Hading represents the North-Eastern Neolithic tradition in Assam, characterized by stone tools and cord-marked pottery. Mehrgarh is the foundational Neolithic community in Baluchistan. These sites together illustrate the diverse regional origins and varied timelines of early food production across South Asia.

246. (B) a ritualistic or companionate relationship between humans and animals.

The discovery of a dog buried alongside a human at a Neolithic site in Kashmir, such as Burzahom, is highly significant. This intentional burial suggests a strong social or symbolic bond between the individual and the animal, possibly reflecting the dog's role as a companion, guardian, or hunting partner. Such practices indicate that these communities held complex ritual beliefs concerning the relationship between humans and the animal world. These co-burials are a distinctive feature of the Kashmir Neolithic, offering insights into their symbolic and social lives.

247. (D) North-Eastern Region

Selbalgiri is a significant Neolithic site located in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya. It belongs to the North-Eastern Neolithic complex, which is archaeologically defined by the use of polished stone tools, including the distinctive shouldered variety. The site has provided evidence for the transition toward settled life in the hilly regions of the North-East. Like other sites in this region, it represents a regional adaptation to the forest-rich environment and shows technological and cultural affinities with prehistoric traditions found in neighboring Southeast Asian and Chinese territories.

248. (A) the chemical composition of the vitrified material being consistent with burnt cow dung.

The identification of Southern Neolithic ash-mounds as burnt cattle pens is based on rigorous scientific evidence. Chemical and stratigraphic analyses of the mounds have confirmed that the vitrified ash is composed primarily of burnt herbivore dung, specifically consistent with cattle. Furthermore, excavations at sites like Uttnur and Piklihal have uncovered structural remains of post-holes and stockades within the mound areas, providing direct archaeological evidence for livestock enclosures. Together, these findings prove that the mounds resulted from the intensive cattle-based economy of the Neolithic Deccan.

249. (C) Sites are exclusively found in one single type of environment.

Mesolithic populations in India were characterized by their incredible ability to adapt to diverse ecological niches. Far from being restricted to one environment, sites are found across the entire subcontinent in widely varying landscapes. These include stabilized sand dunes in the semi-arid west, natural rock-shelters in the central highlands, and alluvial plains in the Ganga valley. This widespread and diverse distribution indicates that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers were highly flexible and successfully tailored their subsistence strategies and technologies to exploit the unique resources of each region.

250. (B) 1, 2 and 3

Indian Neolithic sites are categorized into distinct geographical and cultural zones. Koldihwa and Mahagara are key locations in the Central Ganga and Vindhyan region. Piklihal and Uttnur represent the Southern Neolithic tradition in the peninsula. Chirand and Senuwar are prominent Eastern Neolithic sites in Bihar. However, Sarutaru and Daojali Hading are located in the North-Eastern region of Assam, rather than Kashmir. This distribution shows how early farming and pastoral communities adapted to the subcontinent's various ecological landscapes, each developing its own unique regional tradition.

251. (B) Its direct role as a precursor to food production.

The Epi-Palaeolithic of the Levant, represented by cultures like the Natufian, serves as the immediate foundation for the subsequent Neolithic revolution. Unlike the European Mesolithic, which adapted to forest environments, this phase in West Asia developed the socioeconomic groundwork for agriculture through sedentary lifestyles and intensive wild cereal harvesting before domestication.

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consists of vessels featuring cord-like patterns pressed into the wet clay before firing. This cord-impressed ware is a diagnostic hallmark of the region's material culture, serving as a key indicator for archaeologists identifying sites belonging to this cultural group.

286. (D) Exceptionally rich and diverse bone tool industry.

Located in modern Bihar, this site is renowned for its advanced craftsmanship in organic materials. The tool collection found there is unparalleled in the Indian Neolithic context, featuring a vast variety of implements made from bone and antler. These include specialized items such as scrapers, needles, and borers, indicating a highly developed tradition of craft specialization within the community.

287. (C) The practice of a sophisticated multi-cropping system.

Archaeological evidence from this site demonstrates that Eastern Neolithic farmers did not rely on a single crop. Instead, they cultivated a diverse range of cereals and pulses, including rice, wheat, and barley. This multi-cropping strategy suggests a highly developed understanding of agriculture, which would have ensured a more reliable and secure food supply throughout different seasons of the year.

288. (B) Broad, providing a secure and stable food supply.

The communities in this region established a diverse economic foundation that included multiple crops and specialized animal exploitation. This varied subsistence strategy reduced the risk of food shortages and supported long-term sedentary habitation. The stability provided by this broad agricultural and craft base allowed for the emergence of mature and flourishing village societies across the eastern Ganga valley.

289. (D) Circular wattle-and-daub houses.

The Neolithic settlement at this site consisted of permanent residential structures arranged within a village setting. These houses were typically circular in plan and constructed using a framework of posts covered with mud-plastered reeds or sticks. The presence of internal hearths and post-holes within these wattle-and-daub buildings confirms a fully sedentary lifestyle characterized by established and durable household units.

290. (A) A mature phase with diverse agriculture and craft specialization.

The combined evidence of complex material culture, advanced bone-working traditions, and multi-crop agricultural systems indicates a high level of societal development. These sites do not represent a tentative or early stage but rather a well-established and sophisticated cultural complex. This mature phase is defined by successful environmental adaptation and the flourishing of specialized crafts and diverse farming techniques.

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291. (C) Shouldered celt.

This specific type of polished stone axe is a key marker for the Neolithic cultures of Northeast India. While these tools are rarely found in other parts of the subcontinent, they are a common feature in archaeological sites across Southeast Asia and Southern China. Their presence in the Garo and Cachar hills suggests significant cultural contact or the diffusion of technological traditions.

292. (A) Handmade, cord-marked pottery.

The ceramic traditions of the North-Eastern Neolithic are quite distinct from those in the rest of India. The vessels were produced without the use of a potter's wheel and often display coarse textures. A defining feature is the decorative impression of cords or baskets on the exterior surface. This specific style of cord-marked pottery is a major trait shared with neighboring East Asian cultures.

293. (D) Potential cultural links with Southeast Asia.

The simultaneous appearance of shouldered stone celts and cord-marked ceramics creates a unique archaeological profile for this region. These specific technological and artistic elements are characteristic of prehistoric groups in Southeast Asia. Such strong similarities suggest that the Neolithic development in Northeast India was not isolated but was likely part of a broader cultural network extending into the eastern regions.

aceramic levels, inhabitants cultivated wheat and barley and practiced animal husbandry, including the domestication of zebu cattle. They also lived in permanent mud-brick houses and eventually developed cotton cultivation. However, there was no initial reliance on rice. Rice cultivation was a later development in South Asia, primarily centered in the Ganga valley rather than the semi-arid borderlands of Baluchistan.

233. (C) It is primarily known for its extensive pit-dwelling complex.

Baidyapur is a significant Eastern Neolithic site located in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. It represents the spread of early farming and sedentary life into eastern India and has yielded a range of polished stone tools. However, Baidyapur is not known for pit-dwellings. Subterranean pit-houses are the unique hallmark of the Kashmir Neolithic at sites like Burzahom. Eastern Neolithic sites typically feature different residential structures and artifact assemblages adapted to the riverine and plateau environments of the Ganga plains and the Odisha region.

234. (A) Pit-dwellings

Subterranean pit-dwellings are the defining architectural feature of the Neolithic culture of Kashmir, found at sites like Burzahom and Gufkral. These circular or oval structures were dug into the natural soil to provide insulation against the freezing temperatures and harsh winds of the high-altitude Himalayan environment. Post-holes around the pits indicate they were covered with timber and thatch roofs. This specialized form of dwelling reflects a unique adaptation to the local climate, distinguishing the Kashmir tradition from other regional Neolithic cultures in India.

235. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Selbalgiri, Daojali Hading, Marakdola, and Sarutaru are all key Neolithic sites located within the North-Eastern region of India, across the states of Assam and Meghalaya. They define the North-Eastern Neolithic complex, characterized by the use of polished stone tools, including shouldered celts, and cord-impressed pottery. Hallur, however, is a prominent Neolithic site situated in the southern peninsular region of Karnataka. It belongs to the Southern Neolithic tradition, which is culturally and geographically distinct from the early farming communities that inhabited the forested hills of the North-East.

236. (B) easy access to deep alluvial soil for rice cultivation.

The strategic location of Southern Neolithic settlements on granite hilltops provided several practical advantages. These elevated positions offered natural defense, a clear vantage point for monitoring the landscape, and good pastureland for cattle on the nearby terraces. However, these hills were generally far from the deep alluvial soils required for intensive rice cultivation. Instead, these communities focused on agro-pastoralism, growing drought-resistant millets in the surrounding plains while maintaining large herds of cattle, which were perfectly suited to the semi-arid environment of the Deccan plateau.

237. (C) It shows a transition from Neolithic to Chalcolithic.

Senuwar, located in the Rohtas district of Bihar, is an important Eastern Neolithic site that exhibits a clear cultural succession. Excavations have revealed that the initial Neolithic occupation, characterized by settled farming and ground stone tools, was followed by a Chalcolithic phase. This transition is marked by the introduction of copper technology alongside continuing stone tool traditions. The long-term occupation at Senuwar provides crucial evidence for the continuous socio-economic development of prehistoric communities in the Middle Ganga plains before the emergence of urban civilizations.

238. (D) rice cultivation in India derived from Southeast Asia.

The archaeological evidence from sites like Koldihwa, Mahagara, and Lahuradewa in the Ganga valley has challenged earlier theories about agricultural origins. The very early dates for cultivated rice at these locations, especially Lahuradewa, suggest that rice was domesticated in India much earlier than previously thought. This supports the idea that the Ganga valley was an independent and primary center for the origins of rice agriculture, rather than receiving the knowledge or the crop through later diffusion from Southeast Asian or Chinese Neolithic cultures.

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CHAPTER 05

Proto-history: Harappan and Chalcolithic Cultures

1. Which of the following is considered a primary marker of the formative stages of the Harappa culture?
(A) The establishment of large, fortified cities
(B) The emergence of village farming and Chalcolithic settlements
(C) The invention of a standardized, written script
(D) The creation of extensive overseas trade networks with Mesopotamia

2. Which statement accurately describes the developments in the Ghaggar-Saraswati system during the Pre-Urban Harappan phase?
(A) The development of regional cultures that contributed to the subsequent urban phase.
(B) The region remained entirely uninhabited until the peak of the Urban Harappan period.
(C) The settlements in this region were exclusively pastoral and lacked an agricultural base.
(D) It was the sole region where the Harappan script was first developed and standardized.

3. The term 'Pre-Urban Harappan' in the context of Gujarat signifies which of the following?
(A) The specific phase of de-urbanization following the collapse of major Harappan cities.
(B) A distinct, non-Harappan culture that existed simultaneously with the urban phase.
(C) Cultural developments immediately preceding the mature urban phase in the region.
(D) The final settlements of Harappans before their complete and total disappearance.

4. Read the following statements regarding the transition between Harappan phases and select the correct option.
Statement I : The transition from the Early Harappan to the Urban Harappan phase was marked by the emergence of a distinct urban cultural ethos.
Statement II : The Early Harappan period shows no evidence of settlement planning or craft specialization.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

5. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Harappan Site)
P. Kalibangan
Q. Dholavira
R. Harappa
S. Rakhigarhi
List II: (State/Province)
1. Punjab (Pakistan)
2. Haryana (India)
3. Rajasthan (India)
4. Gujarat (India)
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

6. Which of the following is NOT a defining characteristic of Urban Harappan architecture and town planning?
(A) Use of standardized baked and unbaked bricks.
(B) Haphazard growth of settlements lacking a discernible or organized plan.
(C) Presence of a sophisticated, covered drainage system integrated into town grids.
(D) Division of many cities into a citadel and a lower town.

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7. What does the concept of an 'urban-rural dichotomy' imply in the context of the Harappan civilization's economy?
(A) A state of constant ideological conflict between city and village populations.
(B) The complete economic independence of urban centers from the countryside.
(C) A rigid social hierarchy that strictly prevented rural people from entering cities.
(D) A functional relationship where villages supplied food and raw materials to cities.

8. Read the following historical scenario and select the most logical inference.
A historian finds a large number of uniform, cubical stone weights across multiple Harappan sites separated by hundreds of kilometers. What is the most logical inference?
(A) There was a regulated system of trade and commerce with standardized measures.
(B) The Harappans had a highly developed aesthetic sense for cubical shapes.
(C) Each household produced its own weights for personal use.
(D) The weights were used primarily for religious rituals and not for trade.

9. Which of these crafts shows strong evidence of standardization across the Harappan civilization?
(A) Terracotta figurines
(B) Monumental stone sculpture
(C) Pottery production
(D) House construction plans

10. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Harappan script is considered logographic-syllabic, but remains undeciphered.
Reason (R) : The discovery of a large number of bilingual texts, similar to the Rosetta Stone, has confused linguists.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

11. The presence of Harappan seals and other artifacts in sites in Mesopotamia is primary evidence for:
(A) Harappan military conquest of Mesopotamia.
(B) The migration of Mesopotamian people to the Indus Valley.
(C) The adoption of the Harappan religion in Mesopotamia.
(D) The existence of overseas trade contacts.

12. Which of the following is an important excavated Harappan site?
(A) Inamgaon
(B) Surkotada
(C) Ahar
(D) Kayatha

13. What is a key feature often associated with the socio-political organization of the Harappan civilization?
(A) A fragmented system of warring city-states.
(B) A democratic system with elected representatives.
(C) A centralized authority suggested by material uniformity.
(D) The absence of any form of social structure.

14. The art of the Harappan civilization is generally characterized by:
(A) Large, life-sized monumental stone statues of kings.
(B) Elaborate fresco paintings on palace walls.
(C) The complete absence of any animal motifs.
(D) Small, realistic carvings and terracotta figurines.

15. Consider the following statements regarding the excavated site of Mohenjodaro:
1. It is famous for the structure identified as the Great Bath.
2. It is located in the Indian state of Gujarat.
3. Evidence of a ploughed field was discovered here.
4. It is one of the largest cities of the Harappan civilization.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only

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(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) 3 and 4 only

16. Which of the following theories is NOT commonly cited as a potential cause for the decline of the Urban Harappan civilization?
(A) Aryan invasion
(B) A sudden shift to a nomadic lifestyle by the entire population
(C) Climatic and environmental changes
(D) Tectonic shifts and floods

17. The 'Post-Urban' phase of the Harappan culture is best described as a period of:
(A) Increased prosperity and expansion of cities.
(B) Cultural continuity with regional variations and de-urbanization.
(C) Complete abandonment of the Indus and Ghaggar-Saraswati valleys.
(D) The adoption of a new script and language.

18. The Post-Urban or Late Harappan cultures were found in all of the following regions EXCEPT:
(A) Southern Rajasthan
(B) Sindh
(C) Gujarat
(D) Western Uttar Pradesh

19. The concept of 'Sorath Harappan' is used to describe regional variations within the material culture of which province?
(A) Sindh
(B) Punjab
(C) Gujarat
(D) Haryana

20. Arrange the following Harappan sites in chronological order from west to east based on their general location:
1. Dholavira
2. Rakhigarhi
3. Harappa
4. Banawali

Which of the above is the correct sequence?
(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 3, 4, 2
(C) 3, 2, 4, 1
(D) 3, 1, 4, 2

21. The term 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan' in the context of Gujarat refers to:
(A) A local, non-Harappan culture of the Sindh region.
(B) The language spoken by Harappan traders in Gujarat.
(C) Material culture in Gujarat resembling classic Indus valley forms.
(D) The post-urban phase found only in the Sindh region.

22. Which of the following statements about the Harappan decline is incorrect?
(A) Several theories, including environmental and human factors, have been proposed to explain it.
(B) The decline was a uniform and simultaneous event across all Harappan sites.
(C) The decline led to the emergence of regional, post-urban cultures.
(D) It marked the end of the urban phase of the civilization.

23. The Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) is most commonly associated with which other cultural artifact assemblage?
(A) Painted Grey Ware
(B) Northern Black Polished Ware
(C) Jorwe Pottery
(D) Copper Hoards

24. Chalcolithic cultural remains in the Ganga plain are often linked to which pottery type?
(A) Ochre Coloured Pottery
(B) Savalda Ware
(C) Malwa Ware
(D) Kayatha Ware

25. Consider the following cultural assemblages:
1. Banas/Ahar Culture
2. Kayatha Culture
3. Malwa Culture
4. Jorwe Culture
5. Savalda Culture

Which of the above are classified as Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan region?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 4, and 5 only
(D) 2, 3, and 4 only

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1. Ahar Culture
2. Jorwe Culture
3. Malwa Culture

Which of the above is the correct sequence?
(A) 1, 3, 2
(B) 2, 3, 1
(C) 1, 2, 3
(D) 3, 1, 2

46. Which of the following sites is located in present-day Haryana?
(A) Lothal
(B) Dholavira
(C) Kalibangan
(D) Rakhigarhi

47. The Harappan site of Lothal is most famous for what structure, interpreted as a dockyard?
(A) A rectangular brick basin with channels
(B) A large public bath
(C) A pillared assembly hall
(D) A multi-storied granary

48. The material culture of which Harappan site shows evidence of both Pre-Harappan and Harappan phases, including a ploughed field from the early period?
(A) Mohenjodaro
(B) Kalibangan
(C) Harappa
(D) Surkotada

49. The presence of terracotta models of bullock carts at Harappan sites most likely indicates:
(A) Carts were used exclusively as children's toys.
(B) The primary mode of land transport for goods and people.
(C) The worship of carts as religious symbols.
(D) A primitive technology that was rarely used.

50. Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan civilization's economy:
1. Agriculture formed the primary subsistence base.
2. Craft production was highly specialized and standardized.
3. Trade was limited to neighboring villages and did not extend overseas.
4. The urban-rural dichotomy implied a functional dependency.
5. A barter system was likely the main mode of exchange.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 4, and 5 only
(D) 1, 3, and 4 only

51. What is the most common interpretation of the religious beliefs of the Harappans, based on available evidence?
(A) Monotheistic worship of a single sky-god.
(B) Aniconic religion with no representation of deities.
(C) A focus on ancestor worship and nature, particularly trees and animals.
(D) A complex pantheon of gods identical to the later Vedic religion.

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52. The Harappan site of Banawali is noted for its:
(A) Extensive evidence of horse remains.
(B) Largest known Harappan inscription.
(C) Well-preserved dockyard structure.
(D) Radial street pattern, which is unusual for Harappan sites.

53. The evidence from Post-Urban phase settlements in Gujarat suggests:
(A) A sudden and violent end to all habitation.
(B) The construction of even larger cities than in the urban phase.
(C) A continuation of Harappan traditions in a modified, regional form.
(D) The immediate replacement of Harappan culture with the Malwa culture.

54. The term 'Chalcolithic' refers to a period characterized by the use of:
(A) Only stone tools.
(B) Copper and stone tools.
(C) Iron and stone tools.
(D) Only copper tools.

55. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Cultural Term)
P. OCP
Q. Sorath Harappan
R. Kayatha Assemblage
S. Jorwe Culture

(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

36. Which of the following best describes the settlement features of the Urban Harappan phase?
(A) Dispersed, small hamlets with no evidence of planning.
(B) Nomadic camps with temporary structures.
(C) Underground dwellings to escape the heat.
(D) Complex, planned settlements with public architecture.

37. The economic production of the Harappan civilization was characterized by:
(A) A sole focus on agriculture with no craft specialization.
(B) A reliance on hunting and gathering.
(C) A mix of agriculture, craft production, and trade.
(D) The absence of any trade or exchange systems.

38. The debate regarding the Authors of the Harappan civilization refers to:
(A) Who wrote the first books about the Harappans.
(B) The ethnic and linguistic identity of the people who built the civilization.
(C) Which modern-day country has ownership of the Harappan sites.
(D) The specific artisans who created the Harappan seals.

39. Which of the following excavated sites is particularly known for its unique water management system, including a series of reservoirs?
(A) Kalibangan
(B) Banawali
(C) Rangpur
(D) Dholavira

40. Consider the following statements about the Post-Urban Harappan phase:
1. It is marked by a resurgence of large, planned cities.
2. Evidence for this phase is found in Sindh, Punjab, and Gujarat.
3. It represents a complete break with all earlier Harappan traditions.
4. This phase is also referred to as the Late Harappan culture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

41. The Copper Hoards are a Chalcolithic phenomenon primarily found in:
(A) The deep south of India.
(B) The Deccan plateau exclusively.
(C) The Gangetic doab and surrounding areas.
(D) The remote regions of Northeast India.

42. What is the primary characteristic of the 'Kayatha assemblage'?
(A) A distinct Chalcolithic material culture found in Madhya Pradesh.
(B) A type of pottery associated with the Jorwe culture.
(C) A collection of copper tools from the Ahar culture.
(D) A late Harappan site in Gujarat.

43. The Malwa culture flourished predominantly in which river valley?
(A) Ganga
(B) Yamuna
(C) Banas
(D) Narmada

44. Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the Chalcolithic cultures of India?
(A) They are characterized by the use of copper and stone tools.
(B) They all used a uniform type of pottery known as Ochre Coloured Pottery.
(C) They were largely rural and agricultural communities.
(D) They were contemporaries of the Urban Harappan civilization and also survived it.

45. Arrange the following Chalcolithic cultures in a general north-to-south geographical order:

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85. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Harappan Site Feature)
P. Dockyard
Q. Ploughed Field
R. Great Bath
S. Unique Water Management
List II: (Site)
1. Kalibangan
2. Dholavira
3. Mohenjodaro
4. Lothal
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2

86. The concept of courses towards urbanization implies that the Harappan civilization:
(A) Was founded by colonists from a more advanced civilization.
(B) Evolved from earlier, simpler village farming communities.
(C) Appeared suddenly without any local antecedents.
(D) Was a state imposed by a powerful military conqueror.

87. Evidence from Pre-Urban Harappan settlements in Gujarat indicates:
(A) A lack of any local cultural development before the arrival of mature Harappans.
(B) That Gujarat was only settled during the post-urban phase.
(C) A culture identical to the Kayatha culture of Madhya Pradesh.
(D) The presence of indigenous cultures that interacted with and contributed to the Harappan phenomenon.

88. The urban-rural dichotomy in the Harappan context was sustained by:
(A) The ability of agricultural surpluses to support non-food producers.
(B) A strict social segregation enforced by a priest-king.
(C) The importation of all food supplies from Mesopotamia.
(D) The exclusive focus of cities on religious activities.

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89. A major aspect of the Harappan economy that points towards a complex society is:
(A) The absence of any form of craft production.
(B) A subsistence economy based solely on hunting and gathering.
(C) The presence of specialized craft production and long-distance trade.
(D) The use of iron currency for all transactions.

90. Consider the following statements about Harappan art and religion:
1. Evidence suggests the worship of a mother goddess.
2. The 'Pashupati' seal is a significant artifact interpreted as a proto-Shiva.
3. Large, monumental temples were the center of religious life.
4. Animal and tree worship seems to have been prevalent.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

91. The decline of the Harappan civilization was followed by:
(A) A 'dark age' with a complete absence of settled life.
(B) The immediate rise of the Mauryan Empire.
(C) A mass migration to Mesopotamia.
(D) The emergence of various Post-Urban/Late Harappan regional cultures.

92. The Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) culture is chronologically placed:
(A) After the Painted Grey Ware culture.
(B) Broadly contemporary with the later part of the Harappan civilization and the period after.
(C) In the Neolithic period, much before the Harappans.
(D) In the early medieval period.

93. The Banas/Ahar culture is distinct from the Harappan culture, although they were partly contemporary. A key difference is:
(A) Ahar culture was urban while Harappan

List II: (Description)
1. A Chalcolithic culture of the Deccan
2. A regional Harappan variant in Gujarat
3. Chalcolithic pottery type from the Gangetic plain
4. Chalcolithic culture in Madhya Pradesh

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

56. The distribution of the Banas/Ahar culture is centered around which river system?
(A) Banas and its tributaries
(B) Narmada
(C) Ganga
(D) Ghaggar-Hakra

57. The distribution of the Banas/Ahar culture indicates that it was:
(A) A very late culture, appearing after the decline of all other Chalcolithic cultures.
(B) A short-lived and localized phenomenon.
(C) A widespread culture with a long history in southern Rajasthan.
(D) A culture found primarily in urban contexts.

58. Which Chalcolithic culture is particularly known for its robust, thick, and sturdy pottery, often with incised decorations?
(A) Kayatha
(B) Jorwe
(C) Ahar
(D) Malwa

59. The geographic distribution of the Malwa culture shows its presence in the Narmada valley and parts of:
(A) Rajasthan and Haryana.
(B) Western Uttar Pradesh.
(C) The Gangetic delta.
(D) Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

60. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan, such as Jorwe, were primarily rural agricultural settlements.
Reason (R) : These cultures possessed urban characteristics identical to the Harappan civilization, including planned cities and a script.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

61. Which of the following is NOT a Chalcolithic culture of the Deccan region?
(A) Savalda
(B) Malwa
(C) Ahar
(D) Jorwe

62. The emergence of regional cultures in North and North-Western India and Pakistan was a crucial part of the:
(A) Mature, urban phase.
(B) Decline of the civilization.
(C) Post-Urban Harappan phase.
(D) Formative stages of the Harappa culture.

63. The Harappan site of Rangpur in Gujarat is important for understanding:
(A) The transition from the urban to the post-urban phase.
(B) The earliest phase of the civilization.
(C) The nature of Harappan overseas trade.
(D) The complexity of Harappan religious rituals.

64. What does the evidence of a ploughed field at Early Harappan Kalibangan suggest?
(A) The use of advanced iron ploughs.
(B) The pattern of agriculture that persisted into the mature phase.
(C) A ritualistic, non-agricultural activity.
(D) The cultivation of crops imported from Mesopotamia.

65. Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan script:
1. It was written from right to left.
2. It has been successfully deciphered and translated.
3. It is primarily found on long inscriptions on temple walls.

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4. It consists of several hundred signs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

66. The site of Bagasra in Gujarat is significant for its evidence of:
(A) Mature Harappan craft activities.
(B) A large, urban settlement like Mohenjodaro.
(C) Pre-Harappan agricultural practices.
(D) Post-Harappan burial customs.

67. Rojdi, a Harappan site in Saurashtra (Gujarat), is particularly noted for:
(A) The absence of a fortification wall.
(B) A large dockyard structure.
(C) Its extensive evidence of the transition through various Harappan phases.
(D) The earliest evidence of rice cultivation in the region.

68. The study of the decline of Urban Harappan civilization involves analyzing:
(A) A single, universally accepted cause.
(B) Written records from the Harappans detailing their collapse.
(C) The complete disappearance of the population from the subcontinent.
(D) Different theories and multiple contributing factors.

69. Post-Urban phase evidence from the Ghaggar-Saraswati system shows:
(A) A continuation of large urban centers.
(B) A complete abandonment of the river valley.
(C) A shift in settlement patterns and a decline in material prosperity.
(D) The adoption of Mesopotamian cultural traits.

70. Arrange the following cultural traditions in the general order of their appearance in Indian protohistory:
1. Jorwe Culture
2. Urban Harappan Culture
3. Early Harappan Cultures
4. Malwa Culture

Which of the above is the correct sequence?
(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 4, 3, 1, 2

71. The Chalcolithic cultural remains in the Ganga plain are often associated with:
(A) The large, fortified sites of the Banas culture.
(B) The black-and-red ware of the Jorwe culture.
(C) The sophisticated urban planning of the Harappans.
(D) The finds of Ochre Coloured Pottery and Copper Hoards.

72. Which statement about the Malwa culture is correct?
(A) It was a Chalcolithic culture centered in the Narmada valley.
(B) It was a late urban phase of the Harappan civilization.
(C) It was found exclusively in southern Rajasthan.
(D) It is characterized by the use of iron tools.

73. The settlements of the Jorwe culture are predominantly found in which modern state?
(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Gujarat

74. The uniformity of seals, script, and weights over the vast Harappan territory strongly suggests:
(A) A high level of integration and possibly a centralized administration.
(B) A lack of communication between different regions.
(C) The existence of multiple, independent scripts and weight systems.
(D) The dominance of a single, powerful military leader.

75. Consider the following sites:
1. Lothal
2. Dholavira
3. Surkotada
4. Kalibangan
5. Rangpur

Which of the above sites are located in the present-day state of Gujarat?

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(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
(D) 1, 4, and 5 only

76. Which Harappan site has yielded evidence of horse remains (bones) from the late levels, though its interpretation is debated?
(A) Mohenjodaro
(B) Surkotada
(C) Harappa
(D) Lothal

77. Read the following statements regarding the Banas culture and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Banas culture is named after the river in southern Rajasthan where its sites are concentrated.
Statement II : The Banas culture is considered a Post-Urban Harappan culture.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

78. Which of the following is the most appropriate description of the Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan region?
(A) They were large, urban societies with a written script.
(B) They were nomadic hunter-gatherer groups.
(C) They were contemporary with and part of the Mauryan empire.
(D) They were primarily post-Harappan farming communities using copper and stone.

79. The term 'Proto-history' is used for the period that has:
(A) Evidence of writing, but it has not been deciphered.
(B) No evidence of human activity.
(C) No evidence of writing, only archaeological remains.
(D) Abundant written records that are fully understood.

80. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Dholavira's town planning is remarkable for its elaborate water conservation system.
Reason (R) : Located in the arid region of Kutch, efficient water management was crucial for the city's survival.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

81. A key feature distinguishing the 'Sorath Harappan' from the 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan' in Gujarat is the difference in:
(A) Political organization.
(B) Material culture, such as pottery styles.
(C) Religious beliefs.
(D) Subsistence strategies.

82. The Late Harappan cultures in Western Uttar Pradesh represent:
(A) The easternmost extension of the post-urban, de-centralized Harappan tradition.
(B) The earliest origins of the Harappan civilization.
(C) A major urban center on par with Mohenjodaro.
(D) An unrelated Chalcolithic culture with no links to the Harappans.

83. Which pair of Chalcolithic Culture and its characteristic pottery is incorrectly matched?
(A) Ahar Culture - Black-and-Red Ware
(B) Malwa Culture - Coarse Red Ware with black painting
(C) Kayatha Culture - Ochre Coloured Pottery
(D) Jorwe Culture - Matt-surfaced red ware with geometric designs

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84. The archaeological assemblage of the Kayatha culture is considered to be:
(A) Pre-Harappan in its chronology.
(B) A regional variant of the Jorwe culture.
(C) A post-Harappan Chalcolithic culture.
(D) A contemporary of the early Harappan phase.

26. The Banas/Ahar culture is primarily associated with which geographical region?
(A) Southern Rajasthan
(B) The Narmada Valley
(C) The Ganga Plain
(D) The Deccan Plateau

27. What is a distinctive feature of the Ahar culture?
(A) Its exclusive reliance on stone tools without any use of copper.
(B) Its location primarily within large, fortified urban centers.
(C) Its development of a sophisticated writing system.
(D) Its well-known black-and-red ware pottery.

28. The Kayatha assemblage, a Chalcolithic culture, is located in which modern-day Indian state?
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Gujarat
(D) Maharashtra

29. Read the following statements regarding Malwa culture and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Malwa culture was geographically restricted to the state of Maharashtra.
Statement II : The Malwa culture is known for its wide geographic distribution, particularly in the Narmada valley.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

30. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Chalcolithic Culture)
P. Ahar Culture
Q. Kayatha Culture
R. Malwa Culture
S. Jorwe Culture
List II: (Associated Region)
1. Narmada Valley
2. Deccan Region
3. Southern Rajasthan
4. Madhya Pradesh (Chambal Valley)
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

31. The Savalda culture is considered one of the Chalcolithic cultures of which region?
(A) The Deccan region
(B) The Ganga plain
(C) Southern Rajasthan
(D) Western Uttar Pradesh

32. Which of the following is a key characteristic of the Jorwe culture?
(A) The use of Ochre Coloured Pottery.
(B) Its distinctive pottery with a matt surface and geometric designs.
(C) Its concentration in the Banas valley of Rajasthan.
(D) Its status as a fully urban civilization like the Harappan.

33. Which pair of Harappan site and its key archaeological discovery is correctly matched?
(A) Lothal - Great Granary
(B) Kalibangan - Fire altars
(C) Dholavira - Bronze dancing girl
(D) Harappa - Dockyard

34. The development of urbanization for the Harappa culture began with:
(A) The development of village farming communities in the north and north-west.
(B) The immediate construction of Mohenjodaro and Harappa.
(C) The establishment of trade with Egypt.
(D) The discovery of iron technology.

35. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The geographical spread of the Urban Harappan culture was vast, covering parts of present-day Pakistan and India.
Reason (R) : The civilization was confined to a small area around the Indus river and did not extend into regions like Gujarat or Haryana.

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was rural.
(B) Ahar culture used iron while Harappans used copper.
(C) Ahar culture was primarily centered in Rajasthan, not the Indus valley.
(D) Ahar culture lacked any form of pottery.

94. The wide geographic distribution of the Malwa culture is a testament to its:
(A) Military prowess and empire-building.
(B) Seafaring and trade capabilities.
(C) Nomadic and pastoralist lifestyle.
(D) Successful agricultural practices and adaptability.

95. Consider the following cultural traditions:
1. The Banas/Ahar culture
2. The Kayatha assemblage
3. The Malwa culture
4. The Jorwe culture
5. The Gandhara Grave culture

Which of the above are recognized as Chalcolithic cultures?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
(B) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(C) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(D) 1, 3, and 5 only

96. The Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan (Savalda, Malwa, Jorwe) represent a phase of:
(A) Early urbanization preceding the Harappan civilization.
(B) Post-Harappan agricultural expansion into central and southern India.
(C) Hunter-gatherer societies of the Stone Age.
(D) Iron Age kingdoms contemporary with the Buddha.

97. The most significant feature of the Harappan civilization as a whole is its:
(A) Monumental temple architecture.
(B) Sophisticated urban planning and civic amenities.
(C) Extensive use of iron tools and weapons.
(D) Warlike nature and evidence of constant conflict.

98. All of the following are characteristic features of the Jorwe culture EXCEPT:
(A) Large fortified cities on par with Harappa.
(B) A preference for settlement in the Deccan region.
(C) Use of a distinct black-on-red painted pottery.
(D) A Chalcolithic, farming-based economy.

99. The archaeological material associated with the Copper Hoards consists primarily of:
(A) Pottery vessels.
(B) Terracotta figurines.
(C) Objects made of copper, such as axes, harpoons, and anthropomorphic figures.
(D) Iron implements.

100. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The decline of the Harappan civilization was not a single event but a gradual process of de-urbanization.
Reason (R) : Evidence from sites like Rangpur and in Western UP shows the continuation of Harappan traits in later, smaller settlements.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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101. The Harappan site of Rakhigarhi, one of the largest, is located on the banks of the now-dry:
(A) Narmada River
(B) Indus River
(C) Ghaggar-Hakra River
(D) Yamuna River

102. Which statement accurately reflects the Harappan economy?
(A) It was a closed economy with no evidence of external trade.
(B) The economy was based on a combination of agriculture and craft production for both internal and external trade.
(C) Subsistence was primarily based on hunting large animals.
(D) The Harappan economy was monetized, using silver punch-marked coins.

103. The term formative stages in the context of the Harappa culture refers to:

(A) diverse range of crops including wheat, barley, and pulses.
(B) The exclusive cultivation of rice in all regions.
(C) The absence of any irrigation techniques.
(D) The use of iron ploughs and sickles.

163. The site of Surkotada in Gujarat is particularly notable for:
(A) Being the largest Harappan city.
(B) The discovery of the 'Pashupati' seal.
(C) evidence of horse bones.
(D) Being an unfortified settlement.

164. The Post-Urban phase in the Ghaggar-Saraswati system is characterized by:
(A) The growth of settlements that were larger than Mohenjodaro.
(B) The introduction of a new writing system.
(C) The construction of large stone temples.
(D) shift in settlement patterns, possibly due to the drying of the river.

165. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Culture/Phase)
P. Early Harappan
Q. Urban Harappan
R. Post-Urban Harappan
S. Ahar Culture
List II: (Key Identifying Feature)
1. De-urbanization and regional cultures
2. Black-and-red ware in Rajasthan
3. Emergence of regional cultures, formative stage
4. Standardized brick size, planned cities
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

166. What is the defining feature of the Kayatha culture's ceramic industry?
(A) A fine, glossy Northern Black Polished Ware.
(B) sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware, often with incised patterns.
(C) A black-and-red ware similar to Ahar culture.
(D) The classic Harappan black-on-red painted ware.

167. The Jorwe culture is the most representative Chalcolithic culture of which state?
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Maharashtra

168. The study of the formative stages of the Harappa culture focuses on the transition from:
(A) Village farming settlements to urban centers
(B) Neolithic to Chalcolithic
(C) Urban centers to post-urban villages
(D) Chalcolithic to Iron Age

169. What is the most plausible interpretation of the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro?
(A) A private bathing area for a king.
(B) A public swimming pool for recreation.
(C) A structure for ritual bathing and purification.
(D) A reservoir for the city's drinking water.

170. Consider the following statements regarding the Post-Urban Harappan phase:
1. It is also known as the Late Harappan period.
2. It saw a return to large-scale urbanism.
3. Evidence for it exists in Gujarat and Western Uttar Pradesh.
4. It is characterized by regionalization of material culture.
5. It marks a complete and total break from all Harappan traditions.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 3, and 4 only
(B) 2, 3, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, and 4 only
(D) 1, 4, and 5 only

171. The Copper Hoards found in the Ganga-Yamuna doab are:
(A) Collections of copper coins.
(B) Depositories of copper ore.
(C) The treasury of a Harappan governor.
(D) Caches of distinctive copper tools and artifacts.

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113. Read the following statements consisting of a Cause and an Effect and select the correct option.
Cause: The Harappan civilization had a well-developed system of craft production and access to raw materials.
Effect: The Harappans engaged in both internal and overseas trade to exchange surplus goods.
(A) The Effect is the cause of the Cause.
(B) The Cause and Effect are unrelated.
(C) The Effect is a logical consequence of the Cause.
(D) The Cause is true, but the Effect is false.

114. The term 'Proto-history' applies to the Harappan civilization because:
(A) It possessed a script which is yet to be deciphered.
(B) It existed before the dawn of history.
(C) It was a primitive, pre-literate society.
(D) It was mentioned in later historical texts.

115. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Chalcolithic Pottery)
P. Thick, sturdy chocolate-slipped ware
Q. Black-and-red ware, often with white paintings
R. Matt-surfaced red ware with concave-sided bowls
S. Richly painted black-on-red ware with many shapes
List II: (Associated Culture)
1. Ahar Culture
2. Jorwe Culture
3. Kayatha Culture
4. Malwa Culture
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

116. Evidence for the 'beginning of regional cultures' in the North and North-Western India is found in the:
(A) Mature, urban phase
(B) Post-Urban Harappan phase
(C) Iron Age
(D) Early Harappan / Pre-Urban phase

117. The urban-rural dichotomy of the Harappan civilization was necessary for:
(A) Maintaining social segregation.
(B) Defending against foreign invasions.
(C) Supporting a specialized urban population not engaged in food production.
(D) Performing large-scale religious sacrifices.

118. The debate over the Authors of the Harappan civilization is a debate about their:
(A) System of government.
(B) Ethno-linguistic affiliation.
(C) Religious identity.
(D) Level of technological achievement.

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119. A defining feature of the site of Dholavira, besides its water management, is:
(A) The discovery of a large number of horse skeletons.
(B) The absence of any form of fortification.
(C) Its primary role as an industrial center for iron smelting.
(D) Its division into three principal parts: a citadel, a middle town, and a lower town.

120. Consider the following statements about the decline of the Harappan Civilization:
1. It was a sudden, cataclysmic event that occurred simultaneously everywhere.
2. The Aryan invasion theory is one of the proposed explanations.
3. Environmental factors like climate change and river course shifts are also considered major causes.
4. The decline led to the complete disappearance of population from the subcontinent.
5. A Post-Urban phase shows cultural survival in a de-urbanized form.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, and 3 only
(B) 2, 3, and 5 only
(C) 1, 4, and 5 only
(D) 2, 4, and 5 only

121. The Ochre Coloured Pottery is so named because:
(A) It was used to store ochre pigment for painting.
(B) It is always painted with ochre-colored

(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

141. The development of regional cultures in the Ghaggar-Saraswati system was part of the:
(A) Final stage of Harappan decline.
(B) A non-Harappan cultural intrusion.
(C) Formative stage leading to urbanization.
(D) The Mauryan period.

142. The Harappan script, based on the evidence available, can be best described as:
(A) Alphabetic
(B) Cuneiform
(C) Hieroglyphic
(D) Logo-syllabic and undeciphered

143. The site of Bagasra in Gujarat is important for studying:
(A) Mature Harappan craft production and trade.
(B) The decline of the Harappan civilization.
(C) Early Harappan agricultural practices.
(D) The architecture of the Jorwe culture.

144. Which of the following is a prominent feature of the Post-Urban Harappan phase in Gujarat?
(A) The construction of massive new cities.
(B) localization of material culture, seen in ceramics like Lustrous Red Ware.
(C) The complete abandonment of all settlements.
(D) The widespread adoption of iron technology.

145. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalcolithic cultures of India:
1. They are characterized by the use of copper and stone.
2. The Malwa culture was centered in the Narmada Valley.
3. The Ahar culture is associated with Southern Rajasthan.
4. The Jorwe culture is a key Chalcolithic culture of the Deccan.
5. All Chalcolithic cultures were fully urbanized.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) 1, 4, and 5 only

146. A distinguishing feature of the Jorwe culture pottery is the presence of:
(A) Spouted vessels and carinated bowls.
(B) Polychrome designs with many colors.
(C) Harappan script painted on the pots.
(D) A glossy finish known as Northern Black Polished Ware.

147. What does the term antiquity in the context of the Banas/Ahar culture refer to?
(A) Its connection to ancient European cultures.
(B) Its discovery by an antique collector.
(C) great age and long duration of the culture.
(D) The unique art objects found there.

148. The Kayatha assemblage refers to the distinct set of material remains, including pottery and tools, that define the Kayatha culture of:
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Gujarat
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Madhya Pradesh

149. The geographic distribution of the Malwa culture indicates it was:
(A) A coastal, maritime culture.
(B) A culture confined to a single large city.
(C) culture of the central Indian river valleys.
(D) A culture of the Himalayan foothills.

150. Which statement correctly describes the relationship between the Harappan civilization and other Chalcolithic cultures?
(A) All other Chalcolithic cultures were direct offshoots of the Harappan civilization.
(B) The Harappan civilization was contemporary with some Chalcolithic cultures and was itself a form of urban Chalcolithic culture.
(C) The Harappan civilization predated all other Chalcolithic cultures by millennia.
(D) Chalcolithic cultures only appeared after the complete disappearance of the Harappan civilization.

151. The emergence of village farming in North and North-Western India was a precursor to:
(A) The Iron Age

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132. Which of the following pairs of site and its modern location is incorrectly matched?
(A) Mohenjodaro - Sindh, Pakistan
(B) Dholavira - Gujarat, India
(C) Rakhigarhi - Haryana, India
(D) Kalibangan - Punjab, India

133. The transition from scattered Chalcolithic settlements to the organized Urban Harappan phase represents:
(A) A decline in social complexity.
(B) A shift from agriculture to hunting.
(C) A process of urbanization.
(D) The abandonment of trade.

134. Read the following statements regarding Harappan religious structures and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Harappan civilization is noted for its monumental religious structures comparable to Egyptian pyramids.
Statement II : Harappan religious practice is inferred from seals, figurines, and features like the Great Bath, rather than large temples.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

135. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Harappan Site)
P. Banawali
Q. Lothal
R. Kalibangan
S. Dholavira
List II: (Key Feature / Association)
1. Fire Altars and Ploughed Field
2. Dockyard and Bead Factory
3. Three-part division and Water Reservoirs
4. Terracotta Plough and Radial Streets
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

136. The concept of a Post-Urban phase in Sindh and Punjab implies:
(A) A continuation of Harappan life but without the urban structure.
(B) The arrival of new people from Central Asia.
(C) A period of intense urbanization.
(D) The complete desertion of these regions.

137. Which culture is characterized by its location in southern Rajasthan and a distinctive black-and-red ware pottery style?
(A) Malwa Culture
(B) Kayatha Culture
(C) Banas/Ahar Culture
(D) Jorwe Culture

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138. The study of the Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan is important for understanding:
(A) The spread of farming communities into peninsular India.
(B) The origins of the Harappan civilization.
(C) The first use of iron in India.
(D) The nature of Mauryan administration.

139. Read the following archaeological scenario and select the most appropriate conclusion.
An archaeologist excavates a site in the Narmada valley and finds a large quantity of channel-spouted pots and a coarse red pottery painted with black designs. The settlement appears to be a large village. To which culture would this site most likely be attributed?
(A) Jorwe Culture
(B) Ahar Culture
(C) Kayatha Culture
(D) Malwa Culture

140. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The end of the Harappan civilization was abrupt and uniform, with all cities being abandoned on the same date.
Reason (R) : The decline was a complex process that varied by region and stretched over several centuries.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

(A) The period of its final decline and fragmentation.
(B) The phase of its greatest urban expansion.
(C) The re-discovery of the civilization in the 1920s.
(D) The early period of development from village farming to regional cultures.

104. Which of the following sites is NOT located in Gujarat?
(A) Banawali
(B) Lothal
(C) Dholavira
(D) Rangpur

105. Arrange the following in their correct chronological sequence of development:
1. Emergence of Urban Harappan ethos
2. Beginning of regional cultures in North-West India
3. Decline of Urban Harappan
4. Establishment of Chalcolithic farming villages

Which of the above is the correct sequence?
(A) 4, 2, 1, 3
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 4, 1, 2, 3
(D) 1, 4, 2, 3

106. The distinction between 'Sorath' and 'Sindhi/ Classical' Harappan in Gujarat highlights the:
(A) Existence of significant regional variations within the broader Harappan culture.
(B) Uniformity of the culture across all regions.
(C) Conflict between two different ethnic groups.
(D) Chronological difference between the two phases.

107. The presence of Late Harappan cultures in Western Uttar Pradesh points to:
(A) The westward migration of people after the urban decline.
(B) The origin point of the entire civilization.
(C) A trade outpost established during the mature phase.
(D) The easternmost reach of the Harappan cultural tradition.

108. Which of the following cultures are often grouped as Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan region?
(A) Pre-Harappan cultures of the Indus valley.
(B) Savalda, Malwa, and Jorwe
(C) Post-Harappan cultures of the Ganga plain.
(D) Chalcolithic cultures of southern Rajasthan.

109. What is a key artifact type linking the Copper Hoards and the OCP culture?
(A) Identical inscriptions found on both copper tools and pottery.
(B) The use of copper inlay in OCP pottery.
(C) The discovery of OCP sherds in the same strata as copper implements at some sites.
(D) The discovery of OCP pots filled with copper objects.

110. Consider the following statements regarding the Chalcolithic Banas/Ahar culture:
1. It is primarily located in southern Rajasthan.
2. Its people practiced agriculture and animal husbandry.
3. It is famous for its distinctive black-and-red ware.
4. It was a fully urban culture with large cities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 3 and 4 only

111. The Kayatha assemblage is chronologically considered to be:
(A) One of the earliest Chalcolithic cultures of Central India.
(B) A Late Harappan culture.
(C) A Neolithic culture.
(D) An Iron Age culture.

112. The rich black cotton soil of the Narmada valley and the Deccan was a significant factor in the agricultural economy of which cultures?
(A) OCP and Copper Hoard
(B) Malwa and Jorwe
(C) Ahar and Banas
(D) Early Harappan of Ghaggar valley

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(B) The Mauryan Empire
(C) The Gupta Period
(D) The Harappan Civilization

152. Which of the following is known for being a Harappan port town in Gujarat?
(A) Lothal
(B) Kalibangan
(C) Rakhigarhi
(D) Banawali

153. The concept of a 'Sorath Harappan' versus a 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan' in Gujarat is an example of:
(A) Chronological development
(B) Socio-political conflict
(C) Regional variation in material culture
(D) Different religious practices

154. Theories regarding the decline of the Harappan civilization point towards:
(A) complex interplay of multiple factors, both natural and human.
(B) A single, universally accepted reason.
(C) A peaceful transition into the Mauryan empire.
(D) A deliberate, planned relocation of the entire population.

155. Consider the following aspects of the Urban Harappan phase:
1. Well-developed town planning and architecture.
2. A subsistence economy based only on trade.
3. Standardisation of crafts like pottery and weights.
4. Evidence of overseas contacts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 3 and 4 only
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2 and 4 only

156. The Copper Hoard and Ochre Coloured Pottery are phenomena associated with the Chalcolithic cultural remains of the:
(A) Deccan Plateau
(B) Ganga plain
(C) Narmada Valley
(D) Indus valley

157. The Banas/Ahar culture is an important Chalcolithic development in:
(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Gujarat
(C) Southern Rajasthan
(D) Haryana

158. The Chalcolithic culture named after the Narmada valley with a wide geographic distribution is the:
(A) Kayatha culture
(B) Jorwe culture
(C) Ahar culture
(D) Malwa culture

159. Savalda, Malwa, and Jorwe are all sub-traditions of the Chalcolithic cultures of the:
(A) Deccan region
(B) Ganga Plain
(C) Thar Desert
(D) Himalayan foothills

160. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Many Harappan cities show a bipartite plan, with a raised citadel and a lower town.
Reason (R) : This division is thought to reflect a social and administrative hierarchy, with rulers or elites occupying the citadel.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

161. The 'emergence of the Urban Harappan cultural ethos' signifies a shift from:
(A) Nomadic life to settled villages.
(B) Regional village cultures to an integrated urban system.
(C) An urban system to a de-urbanized state.
(D) A barter economy to a currency-based economy.

162. Which of these is a key element of Harappan agricultural production?

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designs.
(C) Its tendency to leave a residue on hands due to poor firing and waterlogged conditions.
(D) It was first discovered in a place called Ochre.

122. The Chalcolithic culture of southern Rajasthan, known as the Banas/Ahar culture, is notable for:
(A) Its relative proximity to copper sources and evidence of smelting.
(B) Its extensive use of baked bricks in construction.
(C) Its location along the Indus river.
(D) Its development of a script similar to the Harappan one.

123. The Malwa culture is recognized archaeologically by its:
(A) Large megalithic burials.
(B) Use of Northern Black Polished Ware.
(C) Urban planning on a grid pattern.
(D) Distinctive black-on-red pottery with a coarse fabric.

124. The Savalda culture is important as it represents:
(A) The easternmost Chalcolithic culture of India.
(B) An early Chalcolithic phase in the Deccan region, particularly in Maharashtra.
(C) A culture that used only microliths and no copper.
(D) A late Harappan outpost in the Deccan.

125. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Jorwe culture sites are predominantly found in the semi-arid regions of Maharashtra.
Reason (R) : The Jorwe people practiced dry farming, supplemented by stock-raising and hunting/fishing, which was well-suited to this environment.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

126. The geographical spread of the urban Harappan civilization did not extend to:
(A) Gujarat
(B) Haryana
(C) Sindh
(D) The deep southern peninsula of India

127. The standardization of crafts in the Harappan civilization is LEAST evident in which of the following?
(A) Terracotta human figurines
(B) Seals
(C) Weights
(D) Bricks

128. Which of the following sites provides evidence for the Post-Urban or Late Harappan phase?
(A) Early levels of Kalibangan
(B) Sites in Western Uttar Pradesh
(C) Mature phase of Mohenjodaro
(D) The Neolithic levels of Mehrgarh

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129. The Chalcolithic cultural remains in the Ganga plain primarily consist of:
(A) Large cities with citadels.
(B) Evidence of OCP and Copper Hoards.
(C) A series of rock-cut caves.
(D) Inscriptions written in Brahmi script.

130. Consider the following Chalcolithic cultures located outside the Harappan domain:
1. Banas/Ahar Culture
2. Kayatha assemblage
3. Malwa Culture
4. Sorath Harappan

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

131. The Narmada valley is the primary location for which Chalcolithic culture?
(A) Ahar
(B) Kayatha
(C) Malwa
(D) Jorwe

172. The distribution of the Banas/Ahar culture suggest it was:
(A) A minor, short-lived cultural episode.
(B) influential and long-lasting Chalcolithic tradition in its region.
(C) An outpost of the Mesopotamian civilization.
(D) A direct predecessor of the Mauryan empire.

173. The Malwa culture is so-named because a large number of its sites are found in the Malwa region of:
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Gujarat
(C) Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
(D) Haryana

174. In the Deccan Chalcolithic sequence, which culture generally precedes the Jorwe culture in many areas?
(A) Ahar
(B) OCP
(C) Kayatha
(D) Savalda

175. Arrange the following in the correct chronological order of their appearance:
1. Jorwe Culture
2. Mature Harappan Culture
3. Kayatha Culture
4. Malwa Culture

Which of the above is the correct sequence?
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 3, 2, 4, 1
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 3, 4, 2, 1

176. The urban-rural dichotomy in Harappan society facilitated:
(A) The isolation of rural communities.
(B) development of specialized non-agricultural professions.
(C) The prevention of trade and exchange.
(D) The uniform distribution of population.

177. The evidence of a ploughed agricultural field from the Early Harappan period at Kalibangan is significant because it indicates:
(A) The first-ever use of the plough in the world.
(B) An established agricultural technology and pattern before the mature phase.
(C) The cultivation of crops unknown in other Harappan sites.
(D) A ritual practice unrelated to actual farming.

178. The site of Rangpur in Gujarat is primarily associated with:
(A) The mature and late phases of the Harappan civilization.
(B) The earliest Chalcolithic cultures of India.
(C) The OCP and Copper Hoard culture.
(D) A major center of the Malwa culture.

179. The term 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan' is used for sites in Gujarat that:
(A) Were populated by migrants from the Sindh region.
(B) Used a different script from other Harappan sites.
(C) Show a strong cultural affinity with the core region of Sindh.
(D) Belong exclusively to the Post-Urban phase.

180. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical spread of Harappan culture:
1. It was confined to the Indus valley proper.
2. It extended into Gujarat and Haryana.
3. Post-urban sites are found as far east as Western Uttar Pradesh.
4. No Harappan sites have been found in modern Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

181. The main subsistence base of the Chalcolithic cultures like Malwa and Jorwe was:
(A) Maritime trade and fishing.
(B) Large-scale industrial production.
(C) Subsistence agriculture and stock-raising.
(D) Hunting and gathering exclusively.

182. Which of the following statements about Harappan trade is incorrect?
(A) The Harappans traded with Mesopotamia.
(B) Harappans used metal currency for all trade transactions.

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(C) Trade was likely conducted through a barter system.
(D) A standardized system of weights and measures facilitated trade.

183. The Harappan script is most commonly found on:
(A) Steatite seals
(B) Clay tablets
(C) Papyrus scrolls
(D) Monumental stone inscriptions

184. The different theories on the decline of the Harappan civilization include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) successful transition to the Iron Age
(B) Environmental catastrophe
(C) Foreign invasion
(D) Gradual systemic collapse

185. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Banas/Ahar culture is considered a distinct Chalcolithic culture of southern Rajasthan.
Reason (R) : Its material culture, particularly the black-and-red ware, is identical to the pottery of the Jorwe culture of the Deccan.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

186. The Narmada valley's Chalcolithic archaeology is dominated by the remains of the:
(A) Malwa culture
(B) Ahar culture
(C) Jorwe culture
(D) Savalda culture

187. The art of the Harappan civilization, as seen in its seals and sculptures, displays a high degree of:
(A) Monumentality and abstraction.
(B) Royal portraiture.
(C) Naturalism and craftsmanship.
(D) Military and violent themes.

188. Which of the following best describes the Post-Urban Harappan phase?
(A) A period of cultural enrichment and urban renewal.
(B) process of de-urbanization and regional diversification.
(C) The era of the civilization's greatest geographical extent.
(D) A complete cultural vacuum before the rise of new cultures.

189. The OCP culture is primarily found in the stratigraphical context of the:
(A) Deccan Trap
(B) Saurashtra Peninsula
(C) Indo-Gangetic Divide and Upper Gangetic Valley
(D) Thar desert

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190. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Rojdi
Q. Banawali
R. Mohenjodaro
S. Kalibangan
List II: (State/Province)
1. Haryana
2. Sindh
3. Gujarat
4. Rajasthan
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

191. The Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan (Savalda, Malwa, Jorwe) are primarily understood through their:
(A) Distinctive pottery styles and settlement patterns
(B) Written texts
(C) Monumental stone architecture
(D) Extensive trade with the Roman Empire

192. A key question regarding the socio-political organization of the Harappans is whether they were a:
(A) Kingdom or an empire

(B) Series of independent city-states or a unified state
(C) Hunter-gatherer band or a tribal society
(D) Democratic republic or a military dictatorship

193. The Harappan settlement feature of a citadel and lower town is absent or modified at some sites, indicating:
(A) A uniform political system everywhere.
(B) Regional variations in urban layout.
(C) That all sites were unfortified.
(D) A lack of any social hierarchy.

194. The decline of the urban Harappan civilization was a complex process, and the post-urban phase shows:
(A) survival of Harappan traditions in a transformed, rural context.
(B) The sudden end of all cultural life.
(C) The immediate appearance of a new language and religion.
(D) The conquest of the area by the Malwa culture.

195. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan society and religion:
1. The Pashupati seal is considered evidence of a male deity.
2. Terracotta mother goddess figurines suggest fertility worship.
3. No structures have been conclusively identified as large public temples.
4. The Great Bath at Mohenjodaro may have had a ritual purpose.
5. The religion was identical to Vedic religion, with fire sacrifices to Indra and Agni.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) 1, 4, and 5 only

196. The Kayatha culture is distinguished by its unique ceramic industry, which includes a sturdy chocolate ware and a:
(A) Lustrous Red Ware.
(B) Northern Black Polished Ware.
(C) Black-and-red ware.
(D) Buff ware with paintings in red.

197. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(A) Ahar Culture - Narmada Valley
(B) Malwa Culture - Southern Rajasthan
(C) Jorwe Culture - Deccan Region
(D) Kayatha Culture - Ganga Plain

198. The emergence of Chalcolithic settlements in areas like North-Western India, the Ghaggar-Saraswati system, and Gujarat represents:
(A) The decline of the Harappan civilization.
(B) formative background of the Harappan civilization.
(C) An Iron Age phenomenon.
(D) A culture unrelated to the Harappans.

199. The standardization of the Harappan script, although undeciphered, suggests:
(A) Widespread literacy among the entire population.
(B) That each city had its own unique script.
(C) That the script was purely decorative and had no meaning.
(D) well-established system of communication and administration.

200. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Lothal is widely identified by archaeologists as a Harappan port with a dockyard.
Reason (R) : Its location near the sea in Gujarat and the presence of a large, brick-lined basin support this interpretation.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

201. Evidence of overseas contacts for the Harappan civilization includes the discovery of Harappan seals in:
(A) China
(B) Egypt
(C) Mesopotamia
(D) Rome

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244. The Late Harappan cultures of Sindh, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, and Western Uttar Pradesh all represent:
(A) The peak of Harappan urbanization.
(B) Cultures that were completely unrelated to the Harappan tradition.
(C) The successful transition to an iron-based economy.
(D) diverse regional outcomes of the process of de-urbanization.

245. Consider the following theories proposed for the decline of the Indus Civilization:
1. Aryan Invasion
2. Climatic Change leading to drought
3. Tectonic shifts and flooding
4. A shift in the course of the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers
5. A transition to a more powerful, centralized empire

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only
(B) 2, 3, 4, and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(D) 1, 4, and 5 only

246. The Chalcolithic cultural remains in the Ganga plain are archaeologically identified by the presence of:
(A) Painted Grey Ware
(B) Ochre Coloured Pottery
(C) Northern Black Polished Ware
(D) Harappan black-on-red ware

247. The 'Kayatha assemblage' is a term used to define the material culture of a Chalcolithic site in:
(A) The Narmada Valley
(B) Southern Rajasthan
(C) The Deccan plateau
(D) Chambal Valley region of Madhya Pradesh

248. The most extensive Chalcolithic culture of central India, known for its distinct pottery and wide distribution in the Narmada valley, is the:
(A) Malwa Culture
(B) Jorwe Culture
(C) Ahar Culture
(D) Kayatha Culture

249. Read the following statements regarding Deccan Chalcolithic cultures and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan were largely post-Harappan and represent the spread of agriculture in peninsular India.
Statement II : The Jorwe culture is one of the most prominent Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan region.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

250. Which pair of culture and its primary geographical location is correctly matched?
(A) OCP Culture - Upper Ganga Plain
(B) Jorwe Culture - Ganga Plain
(C) Ahar Culture - Narmada Valley
(D) Malwa Culture - Deccan Plateau

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The formative stages of the Harappa culture represent a crucial transition from nomadic subsistence to settled agrarian life, deeply rooted in the Chalcolithic context of the subcontinent. This period is characterized by the emergence of village farming communities across North and North-Western India and Pakistan. These early settlements were not uniform but marked the beginning of distinct regional cultures, each with its own material traits, yet interconnected through nascent trade and communication networks. The development of agriculture, animal husbandry, and rudimentary craft production laid the economic foundation necessary for future societal complexity. These Chalcolithic settlements served as the crucible where the technological and social innovations that would later define the urban Harappan civilization were first developed and refined. The proliferation of these farming villages established a demographic and economic base that supported a gradual increase in population density and social stratification. This phase was

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211. The Chalcolithic cultural remains in the Ganga plain, apart from OCP, are known for:
(A) Large fortified settlements.
(B) A distinct writing system.
(C) associated Copper Hoards.
(D) Proximity to Harappan cities.

212. The Malwa culture of the Narmada valley is characterized by a distinctive pottery that is:
(A) A fine, thin, glossy black ware.
(B) A handmade, grey-colored ware with incised decorations.
(C) Identical to the mature Harappan pottery.
(D) coarse-to-medium fabric ware with a thick slip and black painted designs.

213. The sequence of Chalcolithic cultures in the Deccan often shows an evolution from Savalda to Malwa to Jorwe, indicating:
(A) A series of migrations from different regions.
(B) The simultaneous existence of three unrelated cultures.
(C) continuous cultural development with changes over time.
(D) A decline in cultural complexity over time.

214. The term 'Proto-history' best describes which of these cultures?
(A) The Malwa Culture
(B) The Harappa Culture
(C) The Jorwe Culture
(D) The Ahar Culture

215. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Chalcolithic cultures of India, such as Ahar and Malwa, were primarily rural.
Reason (R) : Unlike the Harappans, they did not develop large-scale urban centers with monumental architecture and a writing system.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

216. The geographical spread of the urban Harappan culture included all the following areas EXCEPT:
(A) Brahmaputra Valley
(B) Sindh
(C) Gujarat
(D) Haryana

217. The socio-political organization of the Harappans remains a subject of debate, but the high degree of uniformity suggests:
(A) A complete lack of governance.
(B) A society ruled by military generals.
(C) effective administrative or integrative mechanism.
(D) A collection of small, independent villages.

218. The concept of a Post-Urban phase is critical for understanding that the end of Harappan cities:
(A) was not an end, but a transformation.
(B) Meant the end of all culture in the region.
(C) Was caused solely by an invasion.
(D) Led to a more advanced urban civilization.

219. The Ochre Coloured Pottery's association with the Copper Hoards is based on:
(A) Inscriptions on both.
(B) The use of copper dust to color the pottery.
(C) Written accounts from the period.
(D) discovery in similar geographical zones and archaeological contexts.

220. Consider the following cultural sites:
1. Mohenjodaro
2. Harappa
3. Ahar
4. Kalibangan
5. Jorwe
Which of the above are important excavated Harappan sites?
(A) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only
(B) 1, 2, and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 4, and 5 only
(D) 2, 3, and 5 only

221. The settlement of Inamgaon is a major site of which culture?
(A) Ahar culture
(B) Kayatha culture
(C) Malwa and Jorwe culture
(D) OCP culture

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202. The Post-Urban Harappan evidence from the Indus valley shows:
(A) cultural transformation, as seen in the Jhukar culture.
(B) A continuation of urban life without any change.
(C) A complete abandonment of the region.
(D) The immediate appearance of the Malwa culture.

203. The Banas/Ahar culture is named after:
(A) Its most important excavated site.
(B) Its first discoverer.
(C) The primary crop cultivated by its people.
(D) The river valley in which it is predominantly found.

204. The Chalcolithic culture of the Deccan region that is considered the latest and most widespread is:
(A) Savalda
(B) Jorwe
(C) Malwa
(D) Kayatha

205. Consider the following statements about the Jorwe culture:
1. It is a major Chalcolithic culture of the Deccan.
2. Its pottery is typically a matt-surfaced red ware.
3. Spouted jars are a characteristic vessel shape.
4. It was a fully urban culture with a written script.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2 and 4 only

206. Read the following statements regarding Harappan material culture and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Harappan civilization is characterized by a remarkable uniformity in its material culture over a vast area.
Statement II : This uniformity completely erased any and all regional variations, as seen in the identical pottery of Gujarat and Sindh.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

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207. Which of the following is a large Harappan city located in modern Pakistan's Punjab province?
(A) Harappa
(B) Mohenjodaro
(C) Dholavira
(D) Rakhigarhi

208. The 'urban-rural dichotomy' was an economic system where:
(A) Cities and villages were in a state of war.
(B) Villages provided agricultural surplus to support urban specialists.
(C) Cities produced food for the villages.
(D) There was no economic interaction between cities and villages.

209. The primary evidence for Harappan religious beliefs comes from:
(A) Sacred texts and hymns.
(B) Seals, terracotta figurines, and specific structures like the Great Bath.
(C) Monumental temples and ziggurats.
(D) Royal tombs with elaborate grave goods.

210. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Concept/Term)
P. Village farming/Chalcolithic settlements
Q. Town planning and script
R. Regionalisation and de-urbanisation
S. Copper Hoards
List II: (Associated Culture/Period)
1. Urban Harappan
2. Post-Urban Harappan
3. Ganga Plain Chalcolithic
4. Formative Stages of Harappan Culture
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

233. The cause of the decline of the Harappan civilization is generally interpreted as:
(A) A single event like a great flood.
(B) The sole result of the Aryan invasion.
(C) complex process involving factors like climate and economics.
(D) A volcanic eruption that destroyed all cities.

234. The term 'Chalcolithic' signifies that a culture:
(A) characterized by the use of copper and stone.
(B) Was more advanced than the Harappan civilization.
(C) Used iron as their primary metal.
(D) Had no knowledge of agriculture.

235. Consider the following statements regarding the Malwa Culture:
1. It was a Chalcolithic culture of the Narmada valley.
2. Its pottery is known as Malwa ware.
3. It had a wide geographic distribution.
4. It was a fully urban civilization like Harappa.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) 1, 3 and 4 only

236. The Savalda culture is considered to be the earliest Chalcolithic culture in:
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Deccan region
(C) The Ganga Plain
(D) Gujarat

237. The 'urban-rural dichotomy' of the Harappan civilization refers to the functional specialization between:
(A) The citadel and the lower town.
(B) Harappan people and non-Harappan tribes.
(C) city centers and the surrounding agricultural hinterland.
(D) Priests and commoners.

238. A significant feature of Harappan architecture is:
(A) The use of marble and granite.
(B) The construction of massive pyramids.
(C) The building of wooden longhouses.
(D) advanced town planning and drainage systems.

239. The site of Rakhigarhi is located in modern-day:
(A) Haryana
(B) Gujarat
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Punjab

240. Read the following statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Post-Urban Harappan phase shows a decline in urban characteristics like large-scale planning and monumental building.
Reason (R) : This phase represents a reversion to a simpler, more regionalized and rural way of life, though retaining some Harappan traditions.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

241. The beginning of regional cultures in North and North-Western India laid the foundation for the:
(A) Mauryan empire
(B) Emergence of Harappan urbanism
(C) Iron Age
(D) Gupta golden age

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242. The Harappan script is most commonly found on:
(A) Steatite seals
(B) Clay tablets
(C) Papyrus scrolls
(D) Monumental stone inscriptions

243. The evidence from Bagasra and Rojdi in Gujarat is important for understanding:
(A) The origins of the Malwa culture.
(B) The nature of Harappan conflict with Mesopotamians.
(C) trajectory of Harappan culture and its regional characteristics.
(D) The earliest iron use in India.

centres politically.

267. What does the text identify as the backbone of the Harappan economy?
(A) Long-distance maritime trade.
(B) Surplus-generating agriculture.
(C) Highly specialized craft production.
(D) The mining of precious metals.

268. The existence of non-food-producing specialists in Harappan cities implies:
(A) an agricultural system capable of producing a significant surplus.
(B) a general decline in agricultural productivity.
(C) a society without any form of social stratification.
(D) an economy based solely on hunting and gathering.

269. The concept of an urban-rural dichotomy in the Harappan context, as explained in the passage, means that:
(A) Urban and rural populations were ethnically distinct and hostile.
(B) The two sectors were functionally different but mutually dependent.
(C) All craft production was confined exclusively to rural areas.
(D) Rural settlements were completely independent of urban administration.

Target: C.
(A) Urban and rural populations were ethnically distinct and hostile.
(B) All craft production was confined exclusively to rural areas.
(C) The two sectors were functionally different but mutually dependent.
(D) Rural settlements were completely independent of urban administration.

270. According to the source, what was the role of the urban centres in their economic relationship with the rural hinterlands?
(A) To exclusively supply raw materials to the rural sector.
(B) To serve as centres for agricultural production.
(C) To function independently without any rural support.
(D) To provide finished goods and organizational oversight.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Harappan economy was not only sustained by internal production but also by a well-developed system of trade and a robust subsistence strategy. A key element facilitating this complex economy was the high degree of standardisation evident in its craft production. This uniformity, seen in items like pottery, seals, and weights and measures, suggests a centralized regulatory mechanism and facilitated efficient exchange across a wide geographical area. The Harappan script, an undeciphered writing system found primarily on seals, likely played a crucial role in the administration of trade and the management of goods, perhaps by recording ownership, origin, or quantity. While subsistence was firmly rooted in agriculture, the Harappans also utilized a diverse range of resources to support their population. The economic network extended far beyond the civilization's borders, with compelling evidence of overseas contacts, particularly with Mesopotamian and Gulf civilizations. This external trade was not merely for luxury goods but also for essential raw materials not locally available. The combination of a strong agricultural base, diverse subsistence strategies, standardized production, and both internal and external trade networks created a resilient and sophisticated economic system that was a hallmark of the Urban Harappan phase.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. The standardisation of craft production in the Harappan civilization is interpreted as suggesting:
(A) a lack of creativity among artisans.
(B) an economy based entirely on barter.
(C) the presence of a centralized regulatory system.
(D) a decline in the quality of manufactured goods.

272. According to the passage, what was the likely function of the Harappan script in the context of the economy?
(A) To compose literary epics and religious hymns.

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not merely a prelude but an integral part of the Harappan phenomenon, demonstrating a long and complex process of cultural evolution leading towards urbanization, rather than a sudden imposition of urban life. The diversity of these regional cultures indicates a multi-linear pathway to civilization, with various communities contributing to the eventual synthesis of the Harappan cultural ethos.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what is the primary significance of the formative stages of the Harappa culture?
(A) The sudden appearance of a uniform urban civilization.
(B) The transition from nomadic lifestyles to settled village farming communities.
(C) The establishment of long-distance maritime trade with Mesopotamia.
(D) The exclusive development of metallurgical skills in isolation.

252. The passage suggests that the early Chalcolithic settlements in North and North-Western India were:
(A) characterized by the beginning of distinct but interconnected regional cultures.
(B) completely isolated from one another without any interaction.
(C) uniform in their cultural and material characteristics.
(D) primarily focused on nomadic pastoralism rather than agriculture.

253. What inference can be made about the relationship between the formative village cultures and the later urban Harappan civilization?
(A) The urban civilization was a foreign import that replaced the village cultures.
(B) The village cultures and the urban civilization existed simultaneously without any interaction.
(C) The urban civilization evolved directly and gradually from the foundation laid by these villages.
(D) The village cultures were technologically superior to the later urban centres.

254. The economic foundation for the subsequent Harappan urbanization, as described in the text, was primarily based on:
(A) a monopoly over international trade routes and precious metals.
(B) the construction of large-scale monumental architecture.
(C) a sophisticated system of currency and coinage.
(D) the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, and initial craft production.

255. The phrase multi-linear pathway to civilization in the context of the passage implies that the Harappan culture:
(A) was the result of a single, dominant cultural group.
(B) followed a predetermined and identical sequence of development everywhere.
(C) emerged from a synthesis of contributions from various regional communities.
(D) was an isolated phenomenon with no connection to preceding cultures.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The transition from the Early Harappan to the Urban Harappan phase was not an abrupt event but a culmination of developments that fostered a unique cultural ethos. This critical period of emergence was marked by significant contemporary developments, particularly within the Gagghar-Saraswati river system and in the region of Gujarat. These areas, during the Pre-Urban or Early Harappan phase, acted as laboratories for social and technological experimentation. Here, communities began to consolidate, leading to larger, more organized settlements that foreshadowed the great cities to come. The emergence of the Urban Harappan cultural ethos involved the standardization of material culture, such as pottery styles, brick sizes, and weights, which facilitated large-scale integration and administration. This process indicates a growing level of social and political complexity, where a shared ideology or ruling elite could enforce or encourage uniformity across a vast territory. The developments in regions like the Gagghar-Saraswati basin, which supported a high density of settlements, and the

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222. Which statement about the Chalcolithic cultures is incorrect?
(A) They used both copper and stone tools.
(B) They were primarily agricultural communities.
(C) The Jorwe culture is found in the Deccan.
(D) The Ahar culture was fully urban, with a grid-plan and writing.

223. The transition from regional cultures in the Ghaggar-Saraswati system to a more unified culture is part of the story of the:
(A) Rise of the Harappan civilization.
(B) Decline of the Harappan civilization.
(C) Spread of the Malwa culture.
(D) Establishment of the Mauryan empire.

224. The study of Harappan art provides insights into their:
(A) Military strategies.
(B) Religious beliefs and daily life.
(C) Legal system.
(D) Political history.

225. Arrange the following cultural phenomena in their correct historical sequence:
1. Urban Harappan Civilization
2. Jorwe Chalcolithic Culture
3. Early Harappan/Formative Phase
4. OCP/Copper Hoard Culture

Which of the above is the correct sequence?
(A) 3, 1, 4, 2
(B) 1, 3, 4, 2
(C) 3, 4, 1, 2
(D) 4, 3, 1, 2

226. The term 'Sorath Harappan' applies to the regional material culture of which part of Gujarat?
(A) Saurashtra
(B) Kutch
(C) North Gujarat
(D) South Gujarat

227. Evidence from Western Uttar Pradesh for the Post-Urban Harappan phase indicates:
(A) The heartland of the Harappan civilization.
(B) A failed attempt to build a large city.
(C) easternmost frontier of the Harappan cultural tradition.
(D) An area completely untouched by Harappan influence.

228. Which of the following is NOT a Chalcolithic culture?
(A) Banas/Ahar
(B) Kayatha
(C) Malwa
(D) Painted Grey Ware

229. The distribution of the Banas/Ahar culture is primarily in:
(A) The Narmada Valley
(B) The Deccan Plateau
(C) river valleys of Southern Rajasthan
(D) The Gangetic Plain

230. Match the items in List I with List II.
List I: (Region)
P. Southern Rajasthan
Q. Narmada Valley
R. Deccan Plateau (Maharashtra)
S. Central India (Chambal)
List II: (Prominent Chalcolithic Culture)
1. Malwa Culture
2. Jorwe Culture
3. Kayatha Culture
4. Ahar Culture

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

231. The subsistence strategy of the Jorwe culture was based on:
(A) Maritime trade
(B) Large scale industrial manufacturing
(C) Predominantly hunting and gathering
(D) Dry farming, stock raising, and fishing

232. What is the most significant challenge in understanding the Harappan socio-political organization?
(A) undeciphered script and lack of explicit royal iconography
(B) The lack of any archaeological evidence.
(C) The destruction of all major sites.
(D) The scarcity of artifacts.

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Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the passage, a defining characteristic of major Urban Harappan settlements was their:
(A) haphazard and organic growth pattern.
(B) construction entirely from perishable materials.
(C) location exclusively along the main Indus river.
(D) systematic layout with a bipartite plan.

262. The division of Harappan cities into a 'citadel' and a 'lower town' is commonly interpreted by scholars as evidence of:
(A) a functional separation of commercial and residential zones only.
(B) a society with distinct social hierarchies.
(C) a city plan designed purely for defensive purposes.
(D) a chronological development, with the citadel being much older.

263. What feature of Harappan town planning is highlighted in the text as particularly remarkable?
(A) The presence of large, decorative palaces.
(B) The construction of massive religious temples.
(C) The grid-like pattern of streets intersecting at right angles.
(D) The random placement of public buildings.

264. The passage emphasizes which aspect of Harappan architecture as a sign of advanced engineering and civic planning?
(A) The use of monumental stone sculptures for decoration.
(B) The construction of pyramids and ziggurats.
(C) The development of vaulted arches and domes.
(D) The complex and comprehensive drainage systems.

265. Based on the information provided, which statement best summarizes the nature of Urban Harappan settlements?
(A) They were geographically widespread and meticulously planned urban centres.
(B) They were small, rural villages with little organization.
(C) They were architecturally impressive but lacked basic civic amenities.
(D) They were isolated fortresses with minimal civilian population.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The economic structure of the Harappan civilization was complex, sustained by an intricate relationship between its urban centres and the surrounding rural hinterlands, often conceptualized as an urban-rural dichotomy. While the cities were hubs of administration, craft production, and trade, they were fundamentally dependent on the agricultural surplus generated by a vast network of rural settlements. Agriculture formed the backbone of the Harappan economy, with evidence of the cultivation of a variety of crops, including wheat, barley, and cotton. The productivity of this agricultural system was crucial for feeding the large urban populations and for creating a surplus that could be used for trade and to support non-food-producing specialists like artisans, traders, and administrators. Parallel to this agrarian base was a vibrant and highly skilled craft production industry. Harappan artisans excelled in metallurgy, bead-making, shell-working, and pottery, producing goods for both local consumption and long-distance trade. This economic production system highlights a significant level of occupational specialization and a sophisticated organization of labour. The dichotomy was not one of opposition but of symbiotic interdependence, where the rural sector supplied food and raw materials to the urban centres, which in turn provided finished goods, organizational oversight, and a market for exchange.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. The passage describes the relationship between urban and rural areas in the Harappan civilization as a:
(A) state of constant conflict and competition.
(B) relationship of symbiotic interdependence.
(C) system where cities were entirely self-sufficient.
(D) pattern where rural areas dominated urban

strategic coastal location of Gujarat, which was vital for resource procurement and trade, were instrumental in shaping this new urban identity. This phase represents the synthesis of regional traditions into a cohesive, widespread system that defined the mature, urban period of the Indus Valley Civilization.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What does the passage identify as a key characteristic of the emergence of the Urban Harappan cultural ethos?
(A) The complete abandonment of earlier settlement sites.
(B) The standardization of various elements of material culture.
(C) The development of distinct, isolated regional art forms.
(D) The exclusive reliance on maritime trade for economic sustenance.

257. The passage describes the Pre-Urban/Early Harappan phase in regions like the Gagghar-Saraswati system and Gujarat as:
(A) periods of cultural stagnation and decline.
(B) centres of resistance against the emerging urban culture.
(C) isolated communities with no connection to the Indus Valley proper.
(D) areas where key social and technological experiments took place.

258. What can be inferred from the standardization of brick sizes and weights during the emergence of the Urban Harappan phase?
(A) A growing level of socio-political integration and administration.
(B) A decline in craft specialization and skill.
(C) A shift from a trade-based economy to a purely agrarian one.
(D) The universal adoption of a single spoken language.

259. According to the passage, the strategic importance of Gujarat during the Pre-Urban Harappan cultural development was primarily related to:
(A) its role as the sole agricultural production centre.
(B) its cultural isolation, which preserved unique traditions.
(C) its coastal location, crucial for resources and trade.
(D) its development of the earliest form of the Harappan script.

260. The overall process of transition to the Urban Harappan phase is best described as:
(A) a gradual synthesis of regional developments into a cohesive system.
(B) a sudden revolution led by a foreign invasion.
(C) a complete break from the preceding Early Harappan traditions.
(D) a geographically limited phenomenon restricted to the Indus river valley.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Urban Harappan period was distinguished by its vast geographical spread and sophisticated settlement features, which included highly organized town planning and architecture. The civilization extended over an enormous area, encompassing parts of modern-day Pakistan and western India, with settlements found in diverse environmental zones. A key feature of Harappan urbanism was the deliberate and systematic layout of its cities. Many major settlements, such as Harappa and Mohenjodaro, were characterized by a bipartite plan, typically consisting of a smaller, raised western mound, often referred to as the 'citadel,' and a larger, lower eastern area, the 'lower town.' This division is widely interpreted as reflecting a hierarchical social structure. The town planning was remarkable for its grid-like street patterns, with main thoroughfares oriented along a north-south and east-west axis, intersecting at right angles. The architecture, while largely utilitarian, demonstrated advanced engineering skills, particularly in the construction of multi-storied houses made of baked bricks of standardized sizes. Perhaps the most exceptional feature was the elaborate public and private drainage system, with covered drains lining the major streets and connected to individual houses, indicating a strong civic concern for sanitation and public health unmatched in the ancient world.

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(B) To aid in the administration of trade and management of goods.
(C) To document historical events and royal genealogies.
(D) To serve as a decorative element with no linguistic meaning.

273. The passage indicates that Harappan overseas trade was important for:
(A) importing staple food grains for the entire population.
(B) establishing political colonies in distant lands.
(C) disseminating the Harappan religious belief system.
(D) acquiring essential raw materials not available locally.

274. What components does the passage identify as contributing to the resilient Harappan economic system?
(A) A diverse subsistence base, standardized crafts, and extensive trade networks.
(B) A singular focus on agriculture and isolationist policies.
(C) A decentralized system with no evidence of standardization.
(D) An economy completely dependent on tribute from conquered territories.

275. What inference can be drawn about the Harappan economic system from the evidence of overseas contacts?
(A) It was a closed and self-sufficient economy.
(B) It relied more on external trade than on internal production.
(C) It was sophisticated enough to manage long-distance maritime logistics.
(D) It was technologically inferior to its trading partners.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Understanding the socio-political organization of the Harappan civilization remains a challenge due to the undeciphered script and the absence of conspicuous palaces or royal tombs. However, the remarkable uniformity in material culture across a vast area, including standardized bricks, weights, and pottery, strongly suggests a powerful and effective form of centralized authority. The nature of this authority—whether it was a single state, a collection of city-states with a shared culture, or a priestly oligarchy—is a subject of intense debate. The meticulous urban planning and sophisticated civic infrastructure, like drainage systems, point to a well-organized civic administration. Art and religious beliefs are primarily inferred from material remains. The art is most famously represented by stone and bronze sculptures and the thousands of steatite seals, which depict a range of animals, human-like figures, and narrative scenes. A recurring motif is a seated figure, sometimes horned, often identified as a 'proto-Shiva,' suggesting a religious iconography focused on fertility and nature worship. The prevalence of female terracotta figurines may indicate the worship of a mother goddess. The absence of monumental temples, however, distinguishes Harappan religious practice from that of contemporary civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia, suggesting that religious rituals may have been more personal or conducted in public spaces like the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. The high degree of uniformity in Harappan material culture is primarily used as evidence for:
(A) the existence of an effective centralized authority.
(B) a society with no social or economic divisions.
(C) a lack of innovation and technological stagnation.
(D) a system of completely independent city-states.

277. According to the passage, what makes the Harappan socio-political structure difficult to definitively determine?
(A) The destruction of all major urban centres by natural disasters.
(B) The absence of any form of material culture.
(C) The complete lack of evidence for any social hierarchy.
(D) The undeciphered script and lack of clear royal monuments.

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and later Chalcolithic phase specifically centered in the Deccan region of Maharashtra.

31. (A) The Deccan region

The Savalda culture is identified as an early Chalcolithic tradition within the northern Deccan region. Predominantly found in the Tapti River valley of Maharashtra, it predates the more widespread Malwa and Jorwe phases. This culture is characterized by its distinctive painted pottery and early agricultural practices. Its presence underscores the long history of settled farming communities in the Deccan, which developed independently but interacted with contemporary traditions across the Indian subcontinent.

32. (B) Its distinctive pottery with a matt surface and geometric designs.

The Jorwe culture is noted for its high-quality, matt-surfaced red pottery, which often features geometric designs painted in black. This Chalcolithic tradition was the most widespread in the Deccan, characterized by large, well-organized villages and a stable agricultural economy. A unique feature of their ceramic repertoire includes spouted jars and carinated bowls. These artifacts reflect a specialized craft tradition that sustained the rural populations of Maharashtra during the second millennium before the common era.

33. (B) Kalibangan - Fire altars

Significant archaeological discoveries provide clues about Harappan life. At Kalibangan, researchers found ritual structures identified as fire altars, along with the earliest evidence of a ploughed field. Other sites have different hallmarks: Lothal is famous for its massive brick dockyard, Mohenjodaro for the Great Bath and the bronze dancing girl, and Harappa for its extensive granaries. These specific findings help differentiate the functional and cultural roles played by various urban centers.

34. (A) The development of village farming communities in the north and north-west.

The rise of the Harappan civilization was a gradual process that began with the establishment of early farming communities. These regional cultures in the northern and northwestern plains developed the agricultural techniques and social organization necessary for urban life. Over centuries, these small villages evolved into larger, more complex settlements. This formative period provided the demographic and economic foundation that eventually allowed for the emergence of the sophisticated, integrated urban system of the mature phase.

35. (C) A is true but R is false.

The Indus Valley Civilization encompassed a massive geographic area, spanning parts of modern Pakistan, Afghanistan, and northwestern India. Archaeological sites are found as far south as Gujarat and as far east as Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, the idea that the culture was restricted to a small zone around the Indus River is incorrect. Its vast reach demonstrates the civilization's ability to adapt to diverse environments while maintaining a remarkably uniform material culture.

36. (D) Complex, planned settlements with public architecture.

The peak of Harappan civilization is defined by the presence of highly organized urban centers. These cities featured sophisticated town planning, including a grid system of streets, advanced drainage, and the use of standardized bricks. Public architecture, such as the Great Bath and massive granaries, indicates a high level of civic coordination and centralized planning. This urban complexity stands in sharp contrast to the simpler, non-planned village settlements that preceded and followed this monumental phase.

37. (C) A mix of agriculture, craft production, and trade.

Harappan economic life was diverse and highly organized, relying on a stable agricultural base supplemented by specialized craft production. Farmers grew crops like wheat and barley, while artisans produced standardized pottery, jewelry, and seals. Furthermore, the presence of Harappan artifacts in foreign lands proves the existence of a robust long-distance trade network. This combination of subsistence farming, industrial-scale manufacturing, and international commerce sustained the complex social and political structure of the urban centers.

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(A) showed a mixture of both 'Classical' and 'Sorath' traditions.
(B) were purely 'Sorath Harappan' in character.
(C) completely rejected 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan' elements.
(D) existed before the emergence of the Harappan civilization.

285. What does the existence of regional variations like the Sorath Harappan imply about the spread of Harappan culture?
(A) It was spread solely through military conquest and colonization.
(B) It was a short-lived phenomenon that failed to take root in outlying areas.
(C) It involved a dynamic interaction with and adaptation of local traditions.
(D) It was a process of complete cultural replacement of local populations.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The decline of the Urban Harappan civilization marks the end of South Asia's first experiment in urbanism and has been the subject of extensive debate, with numerous theories proposed to explain its causes. No single cause is universally accepted, and it is likely that a combination of factors led to the de-urbanization process. Early theories often posited a singular, catastrophic event, such as an Aryan invasion, but these have been largely discredited due to a lack of convincing archaeological evidence. More recent and widely considered theories focus on environmental factors. These include climate change leading to increased aridity, the drying up of the Gagghar-Saraswati river system which had sustained a high density of settlements, or major tectonic shifts that altered river courses and coastlines, disrupting the agricultural base and maritime trade. Other explanations consider internal systemic failures, such as the breakdown of trade networks, over-exploitation of the landscape leading to ecological degradation, or a decay in socio-political control and civic authority. The decline was not a sudden collapse but a gradual process of de-urbanization, where the defining features of the urban phase—large cities, the script, standardized weights, and long-distance trade—disappeared, and society reverted to a more rural, fragmented existence.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. According to the passage, what is the current consensus regarding the cause of the Harappan decline?
(A) A single, catastrophic event like an invasion is the confirmed cause.
(B) The decline was exclusively caused by internal political conflicts.
(C) The cause is unknown and no credible theories have been proposed.
(D) It was likely caused by a combination of factors rather than a single event.

287. The passage mentions that theories focusing on the drying up of the Gagghar-Saraswati river fall under which broader category of explanation?
(A) Catastrophic foreign invasions.
(B) Internal systemic failures.
(C) Environmental and climatic factors.
(D) Social and religious revolutions.

288. How does the passage characterize the decline of the Harappan civilization?
(A) As a sudden and complete disappearance of the population.
(B) As a gradual process of de-urbanization and fragmentation.
(C) As a planned relocation of the entire urban society.
(D) As a transition to an even more complex and larger urban phase.

289. The theory of an Aryan invasion as the cause of decline is described in the text as:
(A) The most recent and widely accepted explanation.
(B) Being supported by extensive archaeological findings.
(C) A minor contributing factor among many others.
(D) Being largely discredited due to a lack of evidence.

290. Which of the following is listed as a feature that disappeared during the process of Harappan de-urbanization?
(A) The use of the Harappan script and standardized weights.

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ANSWER

1. (B) The emergence of village farming and Chalcolithic settlements

   The transition to a mature urban civilization was rooted in the development of agrarian communities. These early farming groups, existing in a Chalcolithic context, established the socioeconomic foundation necessary for subsequent urbanization. By cultivating stable food sources and creating permanent settlements, these populations initiated the complex social changes that eventually characterized the Indus Valley Civilization's height across the northern and northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent.

2. (A) The development of regional cultures that contributed to the subsequent urban phase.

   During the formative period, the Ghaggar-Saraswati river system hosted several regional traditions that were instrumental in shaping the later urban ethos. These localized cultures developed specific pottery styles and settlement patterns that laid the groundwork for the integrated Mature Harappan phase. This evolutionary process demonstrates that the civilization did not emerge in a vacuum but grew from established communities residing within these critical and fertile river valleys.

3. (C) Cultural developments immediately preceding the mature urban phase in the region.

   In the context of Gujarat, this terminology identifies the archaeological assemblages and social structures that existed prior to the arrival of classical urban traits. These indigenous cultures participated in local exchange and adopted specific technologies before fully integrating into the broader Indus system. Understanding this phase is crucial for tracing the trajectory of human settlement and cultural advancement within the distinct environmental landscape of the Saurashtra and Kutch regions.

4. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

   The shift from early to mature phases involved the creation of a sophisticated urban lifestyle. However, it is inaccurate to claim that earlier periods lacked organization. Archaeological evidence from sites like Kalibangan proves that even in the initial stages, people practiced planned agriculture and engaged in specialized crafts. This suggests that the foundations of urban logic were already present well before the civilization reached its peak developmental stage.

5. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

   Geographic distribution of major archaeological sites is essential for understanding the civilization's scale. Kalibangan is located in the northern deserts of Rajasthan, while Dholavira is a massive city found in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. Harappa, the first discovered site, lies in the Punjab province of Pakistan. Rakhigarhi remains one of the largest settlements and is situated in Haryana, representing the eastern expansion of this ancient urban culture.

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(B) Haphazard growth of settlements lacking a discernible or organized plan.

Sophisticated urban planning is the hallmark of the Indus Valley Civilization. Settlements were characterized by a strict gridiron pattern, where streets intersected at right angles. This organized approach contrast sharply with the disorganized layouts of contemporary cultures elsewhere. The presence of standardized materials and integrated infrastructure proves that the Harappans adhered to a carefully managed system of construction rather than allowing their urban centers to expand in a random fashion.

7. (D) A functional relationship where villages supplied food and raw materials to cities.

   The economic structure of the Harappan civilization relied on a deep interdependence between urban centers and rural hinterlands. Cities served as hubs for administration and craft production, while surrounding villages functioned as the primary source of subsistence and raw materials. This symbiotic relationship

association with Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP), particularly in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab region. These hoards consist of large deposits of copper objects, including antennae swords, harpoons, and anthropomorphic figures, suggesting a high level of metallurgical skill. In southern Rajasthan, the Banas/Ahar culture developed, distinguished by its unique black-and-red ware pottery and a mixed economy based on agriculture, animal husbandry, and the smelting of locally available copper ore. The Kayatha culture, primarily located in the Chambal river valley in Madhya Pradesh, represents one of the earliest Chalcolithic traditions in Central India, characterized by its sturdy, chocolate-slipped pottery. Further south, the Malwa culture, with its extensive geographic distribution across the Narmada valley, is known for its distinctive black-on-red painted pottery featuring elaborate geometric and naturalistic designs. In the Deccan region, a sequence of Chalcolithic cultures including Savalda, Malwa, and particularly the Jorwe culture, established farming communities. The Jorwe culture is noted for its black-on-red painted pottery with matte surfaces and spouted vessels, as well as its distinct settlement and burial practices.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. The Copper Hoards and Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) are archaeological assemblages primarily associated with which region?
(A) Southern Rajasthan.
(B) The Deccan plateau.
(C) The Narmada valley.
(D) The Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

297. The Banas/Ahar culture of southern Rajasthan is identified in the passage by its distinct pottery and an economy that included:
(A) the smelting of local copper ore.
(B) long-distance maritime trade.
(C) the exclusive use of iron tools.
(D) large-scale urban planning.

298. Which Chalcolithic culture, located in the Narmada valley, is specifically known for its widespread distribution and elaborately painted pottery?
(A) The Kayatha culture.
(B) The Malwa culture.
(C) The Jorwe culture.
(D) The Banas/Ahar culture.

299. According to the text, the Jorwe culture of the Deccan region is characterized by which of the following features?
(A) Ochre Coloured Pottery and copper anthropomorphic figures.
(B) Black-on-red painted pottery with matte surfaces and spouted vessels.
(C) Sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware.
(D) A complete lack of agriculture and settled life.

300. The passage provides examples of various Chalcolithic cultures to illustrate that:
(A) distinct regional cultures with unique material traits existed outside the Harappan zone.
(B) all Chalcolithic cultures in India were identical to the Harappan civilization.
(C) the use of copper was limited to only one region in ancient India.
(D) Chalcolithic communities were less technologically advanced than Stone Age cultures.

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Located in the Sindh province of Pakistan, Mohenjodaro is recognized as one of the most significant urban centers of the Indus Civilization. It is famous for the Great Bath, a sophisticated brick-lined structure likely used for ritual purification. As one of the largest cities of the era, it showcased advanced drainage and multistory buildings. However, features like ploughed fields are associated with other sites like Kalibangan, not this specific urban center.

16. (B) A sudden shift to a nomadic lifestyle by the entire population.

Scholars have proposed numerous theories for the decline of the Harappan civilization, ranging from environmental changes to internal social collapse. While climatic shifts, flooding, or potential migrations are frequently debated, there is no evidence to support a total and sudden transition of the entire urban population to a nomadic lifestyle. Instead, the archaeological record suggests a gradual process of de-urbanization and the emergence of regional, less complex cultural traditions over time.

17. (B) Cultural continuity with regional variations and de-urbanization.

The period following the decline of the major urban centers is defined by a shift toward smaller, regional settlements. During this phase, the integrated urban ethos faded, giving way to localized traditions that retained some Harappan elements but lacked the previous level of standardization. This process of de-urbanization involved a movement of populations away from the Indus Valley, leading to the development of distinct cultural identities in peripheral regions.

18. (A) Southern Rajasthan

The late phase of the Harappan culture witnessed a shift in settlement patterns toward the east and south. Significant remains from this period are found in the Sindh region, the plains of Gujarat, and the western parts of Uttar Pradesh. However, the southern areas of Rajasthan do not show the same pattern of late Harappan occupation, as that region was primarily associated with the distinct Chalcolithic Ahar or Banas cultural tradition.

19. (C) Gujarat

Archaeologists use this specific term to identify the regional variations of the Harappan culture found in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It distinguishes local ceramic traditions and settlement patterns from the Sindhi or Classical Harappan forms. The Sorath Harappan sites often exhibit a mix of indigenous traits and urban influences, reflecting the complex process of cultural adaptation and regional identity formation as the civilization expanded into the western coastal areas.

20. (D) 3, 1, 4, 2

Mapping Harappan sites reveals their wide geographic distribution across modern Pakistan and India. Harappa is located the furthest west among these four in the Punjab. Dholavira follows in the Kutch region of Gujarat. Banawali is situated further east in the state of Haryana. Finally, Rakhigarhi, also in Haryana, is located even further east, marking one of the largest settlements near the traditional limits of the Indus Civilization's eastern expansion.

21. (C) Material culture in Gujarat resembling classic Indus valley forms.

In Gujarat, this classification refers to material culture that closely mirrors the standardized forms found in the core regions of the Indus Valley, such as Sindh. These sites feature the classic black-on-red pottery, standardized weights, and specific architectural styles that define the mature urban phase. It serves to differentiate these standardized settlements from more localized or regional variants that developed simultaneously or later within the diverse landscape of western India.

22. (B) The decline was a uniform and simultaneous event across all Harappan sites.

The decline of the Harappan civilization was not a single, catastrophic event that happened everywhere at once. Archaeological evidence indicates that different urban centers faded at different times due to a variety of local and environmental factors. Some regions experienced gradual de-urbanization, while others saw more rapid shifts. Therefore, viewing the collapse as a uniform and simultaneous occurrence across the entire vast territory of the civilization is factually incorrect.

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allowed for a specialized workforce to exist in the cities, sustained by the agricultural surplus generated by the farming populations in the vast countryside.

8. (A) There was a regulated system of trade and commerce with standardized measures.

The discovery of uniform, cubical stone weights across a massive geographical area provides strong evidence for a highly organized and regulated commercial system. This standardization suggests the existence of a central authority or a widely accepted convention that governed trade practices. Such precision in measurement allowed merchants to conduct long-distance business with confidence, ensuring consistency in the exchange of goods between distant urban centers and foreign partners.

9. (C) Pottery production

Craft specialization achieved a remarkable level of uniformity across diverse regions of the Harappan civilization. Pottery production, in particular, displayed consistent shapes, sizes, and decorative motifs, such as the famous black-on-red designs. This consistency suggests that artisans followed standardized techniques or that there was a centralized system for the distribution of finished goods. Such industrial scale production highlights the advanced organizational capabilities of the urban economic system.

10. (C) A is true but R is false.

The Harappan writing system is generally categorized as logographic-syllabic, utilizing symbols to represent both words and sounds. While many inscriptions exist on seals and pottery, they remain undeciphered because no bilingual text has ever been discovered. The absence of a Rosetta-like stone prevents linguists from establishing a clear link between the Harappan script and any known language, leaving the meaning of these ancient symbols a historical mystery.

11. (D) The existence of overseas trade contacts.

Archaeologists have recovered Indus seals and specialized beads from several Mesopotamian sites, which serves as definitive proof of trans-oceanic commercial interactions. These artifacts indicate that Harappan merchants traveled across the Arabian Sea to exchange goods with their western neighbors. Such maritime trade was vital for the Harappan economy, allowing for the acquisition of exotic materials and the export of manufactured products, thereby fostering cross-cultural economic integration.

12. (B) Surkotada

Surkotada is a significant archaeological site located in the Kutch district of Gujarat. It is well-known for its unique architectural features and its fortification, which is divided into two distinct parts. Excavations at this location have provided valuable insights into the expansion of Harappan culture into the coastal regions of western India. The site also remains a point of intense scholarly discussion regarding the presence of specific animal remains.

13. (C) A centralized authority suggested by material uniformity.

The striking uniformity observed in Harappan material culture, from the dimensions of bricks to the standardized system of weights and measures, suggests a high level of administrative coordination. This consistency across a vast territory implies the existence of a centralized authority or a powerful social mechanism that enforced these standards. Such organization was necessary to manage large-scale urban infrastructure, irrigation projects, and the complex trade networks that defined the civilization.

14. (D) Small, realistic carvings and terracotta figurines.

Harappan artistic expression is characterized by its miniature scale and attention to naturalistic detail. Instead of massive stone monuments, the civilization excelled in creating intricate steatite seals, copper figurines, and diverse terracotta objects. These items often depicted animals, human figures, and mythological scenes with great realism. This focus on portable art reflects the daily lives, religious beliefs, and high level of technical skill possessed by the urban artisans of the era.

15. (A) 1 and 4 only

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(B) The practice of agriculture.
(C) The use of pottery.
(D) The domestication of animals.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The period following the collapse of the urban infrastructure is known as the Post-Urban or Late Harappan phase. This era was not a cultural vacuum but was characterized by significant transformation and regionalization. Evidence from across the former Harappan domain, including the Indus valley itself, the Gagghar-Saraswati system, Gujarat, and extending into Western Uttar Pradesh, reveals a mosaic of succeeding cultures. These Post-Urban cultures maintained some continuity with the preceding urban tradition, particularly in pottery forms and subsistence strategies, but lacked the key markers of urbanism. Large cities were abandoned in favor of smaller, more numerous rural settlements. The hallmark features of the urban phase, such as long-distance trade, the script, seals, and monumental architecture, disappeared. In regions like Sindh, Punjab, and Haryana, new local ceramic traditions emerged, often coexisting with simplified Harappan forms. In Gujarat, the Post-Urban phase is well-documented, showing a shift in settlement patterns and material culture, reflecting an adaptation to changing environmental and economic conditions. This phase demonstrates a process of localization and ruralization, where the grand unity of the Harappan civilization dissolved into a variety of distinct regional chalcolithic cultures, which nonetheless carried forward some elements of the Harappan legacy.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. The Post-Urban Harappan phase is best described as a period of:
(A) complete cultural discontinuity with the past.
(B) increased urbanization and centralization.
(C) transformation, localization, and ruralization.
(D) foreign cultural domination across the entire region.

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292. According to the passage, what is a key difference between the Urban and Post-Urban Harappan phases?
(A) The Post-Urban phase lacked features like the script and large cities.
(B) The Post-Urban phase saw the introduction of iron technology.
(C) The Post-Urban phase relied on hunting-gathering instead of agriculture.
(D) The Post-Urban phase had a single, unified culture across all regions.

293. The evidence from the Post-Urban phase suggests a shift in settlement patterns towards:
(A) a few, highly fortified mega-cities.
(B) abandonment of all settlements in the subcontinent.
(C) coastal settlements exclusively dedicated to maritime trade.
(D) smaller and more numerous rural settlements.

294. The passage indicates that Post-Urban cultures in regions like Punjab and Haryana:
(A) completely replicated the Urban Harappan material culture.
(B) developed new local traditions while retaining some Harappan elements.
(C) abandoned the use of pottery altogether.
(D) were identical to the Post-Urban cultures found in Gujarat.

295. The term localization in the context of the Post-Urban phase implies that:
(A) people stopped moving and stayed in one place their entire lives.
(B) trade was restricted to within a single household.
(C) the unified Harappan culture broke down into distinct regional cultures.
(D) a single local culture came to dominate the entire subcontinent.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Beyond the Harappan cultural zone, other distinct Chalcolithic cultures flourished across the Indian subcontinent, each with unique characteristics. One notable archaeological assemblage is the Copper Hoards, often found in

23. (D) Copper Hoards

The Ochre Coloured Pottery is a distinct ceramic tradition found primarily in the Upper Ganga valley. It is frequently discovered in the same archaeological contexts as large caches of copper implements, known as Copper Hoards. These hoards include unique items like anthropomorphs, harpoons, and celts. This close association between the pottery and the metal artifacts suggests they belonged to the same cultural complex that existed during the late and post-Harappan periods.

24. (A) Ochre Coloured Pottery

The Ganga plain's Chalcolithic phase is notably identified by the presence of a specific ceramic type that leaves an ochre residue when handled. This pottery is often found in waterlogged conditions and is associated with early farming communities in northern India. These groups used copper tools and lived in small, rural settlements. The distribution of this pottery marks the eastward expansion of metallurgical and agricultural practices during the second millennium before the common era.

25. (B) 3, 4, and 5 only

The Chalcolithic period in the Deccan region is characterized by several distinct cultural phases. The Malwa culture, known for its painted pottery, and the subsequent Jorwe culture, which represents a widespread agricultural expansion, are key components. Additionally, the Savalda culture is recognized as an early Chalcolithic tradition in Maharashtra. These groups relied on a combination of farming and stock-raising, representing a significant stage of settled life in the central and southern regions.

26. (A) Southern Rajasthan

This specific Chalcolithic tradition flourished in the river valleys of southern Rajasthan. Centered around the Banas River and its tributaries, the culture is named after the prominent site of Ahar. The people of this region were early pioneers in copper smelting due to the proximity of local ore deposits. Their settlements were distinct from the Harappan urban centers, focusing on a rural economy supported by agriculture, animal husbandry, and metalwork.

27. (D) Its well-known black-and-red ware pottery.

A defining characteristic of the Ahar culture is its unique ceramic production, specifically the black-and-red ware. This pottery was often decorated with white painted designs, setting it apart from other contemporary traditions. Unlike the Harappan cities, Ahar settlements were primarily rural and lacked large-scale urban planning or a writing system. Their economy was deeply rooted in the local environment of Rajasthan, emphasizing specialized copper metallurgy alongside traditional farming and pastoral activities.

28. (B) Madhya Pradesh

The Kayatha culture represents one of the earliest Chalcolithic traditions in central India, specifically located in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Centered in the Chambal River valley, this culture is identified by its sturdy, chocolate-slipped pottery and specialized stone tools. Its geographical position allowed it to serve as a bridge between the northern Harappan influences and the emerging farming communities of the Deccan, highlighting the regional diversity of early metal-using societies.

29. (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

The Malwa culture is recognized for its extensive geographic reach throughout central India. While it had a significant presence in parts of Maharashtra, its primary heartland was the Malwa plateau and the Narmada River valley. This culture is celebrated for its highly artistic painted pottery and its successful adaptation to the fertile black cotton soils of the region. It represents a mature stage of Chalcolithic life, characterized by stable agricultural villages and regional trade.

30. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Linking Chalcolithic traditions to their respective regions is vital for Indian protohistory. The Ahar culture is rooted in the Banas Valley of southern Rajasthan. The Kayatha culture is an early tradition found in the Chambal Valley of Madhya Pradesh. The Malwa culture is widely distributed across the Narmada Valley and central India. Finally, the Jorwe culture represents a significant

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278. The passage suggests that Harappan religious beliefs likely included:
(A) the worship of a single, all-powerful male deity in large temples.
(B) a focus on fertility, nature, and mother goddess figures.
(C) a complex pantheon identical to the later Vedic gods.
(D) a complete absence of any religious or spiritual practices.

279. How did Harappan religious practice likely differ from that of contemporary Egypt and Mesopotamia, according to the text?
(A) Harappan religion was more focused on the afterlife.
(B) Harappans built larger and more elaborate temples.
(C) Harappan religion lacked monumental temple structures.
(D) Harappans did not have any religious iconography.

280. The artistic expressions of the Harappan civilization, as described in the source, are best represented by:
(A) large-scale murals depicting historical battles.
(B) monumental stone portraits of kings and queens.
(C) simple, undecorated pottery with no artistic merit.
(D) sculptures, terracotta figurines, and intricately carved seals.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

While the Harappan civilization is known for its cultural uniformity, significant regional variations existed within its material culture, challenging the notion of a monolithic entity. A prime example of this regionalism is found in Gujarat, where a distinction is made between the 'Sorath Harappan' and the 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan'. The 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan' refers to the material culture assemblage typical of major sites in the core Indus Valley, such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa. This includes the classic black-on-red pottery, long carnelian beads, and cubical chert weights. In contrast, the 'Sorath Harappan', predominantly found in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, exhibits a distinct local character. While it shares fundamental Harappan traits, it is distinguished by a different ceramic repertoire, including convex-sided bowls and a gritty red ware, and a greater reliance on local raw materials. Sites like Lothal and Dholavira show a blend of Classical and Sorath elements, suggesting they were interface zones, while others like Rojdi and Rangpur are more representative of the Sorath tradition. This concept of regional variations highlights that the Harappan phenomenon was not a case of wholesale cultural imposition from the core region but involved a dynamic process of adaptation and interaction with local Chalcolithic traditions, resulting in a mosaic of related but distinct cultural expressions.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. The main argument of the passage regarding the Harappan civilization is that:
(A) it exhibited significant regional variations despite its overall unity.
(B) it was a completely uniform and monolithic culture.
(C) it had no connection to the region of Gujarat.
(D) its core region was in Saurashtra, not Sindh.

282. The term 'Sorath Harappan' is used to describe a regional variation of the Harappan culture primarily found in:
(A) the core Indus Valley in Sindh.
(B) the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.
(C) the Gagghar-Saraswati river basin.
(D) the highlands of Baluchistan.

283. What distinguishes the 'Sorath Harappan' from the 'Sindhi/Classical Harappan' according to the text?
(A) The complete absence of any town planning.
(B) A distinct ceramic repertoire and reliance on local materials.
(C) The use of a different, deciphered script.
(D) A technologically superior metallurgical tradition.

284. Sites like Lothal and Dholavira are described as 'interface zones' because they:

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38. (B) The ethnic and linguistic identity of the people who built the civilization.

The question of who the Harappans were remains one of the most debated topics in Indian history. This Authors debate focuses on the ethnic, linguistic, and genetic identity of the people who created this vast civilization. Scholars analyze skeletal remains, script symbols, and cultural continuity to determine if they were ancestral to modern Dravidian, Indo-Aryan, or other linguistic groups. This inquiry is essential for understanding the origins and legacy of South Asia's first urban culture.

39. (D) Dholavira

Dholavira, located in the arid Rann of Kutch, is renowned for its extraordinary hydraulic engineering. The city featured a series of massive stone-cut reservoirs and sophisticated channels designed to collect and store every drop of rainwater. This advanced water management system was essential for supporting a large urban population in a region with limited freshwater resources. Such engineering prowess highlights the Harappans' ability to adapt their urban planning to meet specific environmental challenges.

40. (B) 2 and 4 only

The late stage of the Harappan civilization, also known as the Post-Urban phase, is marked by a decline in urban standards and a shift toward regionalization. While the major cities were abandoned or reorganized, evidence of this continuing cultural tradition is found in regions like Sindh, Punjab, and Gujarat. This phase does not represent a complete break from the past but rather a transformation into smaller, rural settlements that lacked the previous scale and standardization.

41. (C) The Gangetic doab and surrounding areas.

The Copper Hoards are a unique archaeological phenomenon consisting of large caches of specialized copper tools and weapons. These finds are predominantly concentrated in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and the surrounding areas of northern India. The hoards often contain anthropomorphic figures, harpoons, and celts, which are distinct from Harappan metalwork. Their distribution suggests a widespread metallurgical tradition among the late Chalcolithic communities living in the fertile plains of the Ganges river system.

42. (A) A distinct Chalcolithic material culture found in Madhya Pradesh.

This term describes the specific material remains of the Kayatha culture, which is one of the earliest Chalcolithic traditions in central India. Found primarily in the state of Madhya Pradesh, the assemblage includes sturdy, chocolate-colored pottery and specialized stone tools. Its appearance marks a significant transition toward settled farming and metal use in the region. The Kayatha culture played a vital role in the early development of agrarian societies outside the primary Indus heartland.

43. (D) Narmada

The Malwa culture flourished primarily along the banks of the Narmada River and its surrounding plateau. This fertile region provided the necessary resources for a stable agricultural economy based on the cultivation of grains and the raising of livestock. The culture's distinctive painted pottery and wide geographic distribution highlight its success in colonizing the central Indian landscape. Its presence in the Narmada valley represents a significant chapter in the expansion of Chalcolithic farming communities.

44. (B) They all used a uniform type of pottery known as Ochre Coloured Pottery.

While many Chalcolithic cultures shared basic similarities like the use of copper and stone, they were far from uniform. Different regions developed unique ceramic traditions, such as the black-and-red ware of Ahar or the painted pottery of Malwa. Ochre Coloured Pottery is a specific tradition associated with the Ganga valley and is not found across all Chalcolithic sites. Therefore, the idea that all these diverse cultures used a single type of pottery is historically inaccurate.

45. (A) 1, 3, 2

Geographically, these Chalcolithic cultures occupied different latitudes across India. The Ahar culture was located furthest north in the river valleys of southern Rajasthan. Moving southward, the Malwa culture dominated the

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essential for maintaining long-distance trade, managing urban infrastructure, and ensuring economic stability. This uniformity is the most visible sign of the civilization's sophisticated level of political and social organization.

75. (C) 1, 2, 3, and 5 only

The state of Gujarat was a vital region for the Indus Civilization, hosting a diverse range of settlements. Lothal, famous for its dockyard, and Dholavira, known for its water management, are key sites. Surkotada and Rangpur also provide important evidence of the civilization's expansion and transformation in the western coastal areas. While Kalibangan is a major Harappan city, it is located in the northern state of Rajasthan, not within the geographical boundaries of modern Gujarat.

76. (B) Surkotada

Surkotada, a fortified Harappan site in the Kutch region, has been the center of a major academic debate. Excavations at the site yielded animal bones that some researchers have identified as belonging to the horse. This finding is significant because the horse is generally not associated with the mature Harappan phase. However, many experts remain skeptical of this identification, and the presence of the horse in the Indus Civilization continues to be a controversial topic in archaeology.

77. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

Named after the Banas River in southern Rajasthan, this culture is a significant Chalcolithic tradition of western India. It is famous for its rural settlements and specialized copper work. However, labeling it as a Post-Urban Harappan culture is inaccurate. While it was contemporary with the Harappan civilization, it was a distinct regional tradition with its own unique material culture, such as black-and-red ware pottery. It developed independently of the urban systems found in the Indus Valley.

78. (D) They were primarily post-Harappan farming communities using copper and stone.

The Chalcolithic traditions of the Deccan, such as the Malwa and Jorwe cultures, are best understood as stable agricultural societies that flourished after the peak of the Harappan civilization. These communities relied on a combination of copper and stone tools for their daily activities. They lived in established villages and practiced a mix of farming and animal husbandry. These cultures represent a significant expansion of settled life into the central and southern parts of the Indian subcontinent.

79. (A) Evidence of writing, but it has not been deciphered.

This term is used by historians to describe a period of transition between prehistory and recorded history. It refers to a society that possessed a writing system, but because the script has not yet been deciphered, our knowledge of their life depends primarily on archaeological evidence. The Harappan civilization is the classic example of a protohistoric culture. Although they left behind thousands of inscriptions, the silence of their script limits our understanding of their specific historical events.

80. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Dholavira's urban planning is distinguished by an extraordinary water conservation system, featuring massive stone reservoirs and sophisticated channels. This level of engineering was a direct response to its location in the arid landscape of Kutch, where water was a precious resource. By efficiently collecting and storing monsoon runoff, the Harappans were able to sustain a large city in a challenging environment. This demonstrates how environmental factors directly influenced the architectural and technological innovations of the Indus people.

81. (B) Material culture, such as pottery styles.

Scholars distinguish between these two variants in Gujarat based on clear differences in their material remains. The Sindhi or Classical sites feature pottery and artifacts that are identical to the standardized forms found in the Indus heartland. In contrast, the Sorath variant exhibits local ceramic styles and settlement characteristics that reflect regional adaptation. These differences highlight the complex cultural landscape of Gujarat, where urban influences interacted with indigenous traditions to create a diverse and localized archaeological record.

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53. (C) A continuation of Harappan traditions in a modified, regional form.

In Gujarat, the period following the decline of the major urban centers did not witness an immediate collapse of all traditions. Instead, the evidence points toward a transition where Harappan elements continued in a modified, regional form. Settlements became smaller and less standardized, but specific ceramic styles and subsistence patterns persisted. This phase shows that the local populations adapted to changing environmental or economic conditions by evolving their cultural practices rather than abandoning the region entirely.

54. (B) Copper and stone tools.

The term describes a specific technological stage in human history where both copper and stone were used for making tools and implements. It represents a transition between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. During this period, communities practiced settled agriculture and lived in small villages. While they began to harness the benefits of metal, stone tools remained essential for daily tasks. This dual-use technology was the hallmark of several regional cultures across the Indian subcontinent.

55. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

Identifying protohistoric cultures involves matching specific terms with their descriptions. Ochre Coloured Pottery is a Chalcolithic ceramic type primarily found in the Gangetic plain. The Sorath Harappan refers to a regional variant of the Indus culture specifically located in Gujarat. The Kayatha assemblage identifies an early Chalcolithic tradition in Madhya Pradesh. Finally, the Jorwe culture represents a widespread and significant Chalcolithic development within the Deccan region of central and southern India.

56. (A) Banas and its tributaries

The Ahar culture is inextricably linked to the river system of southern Rajasthan. Centered around the Banas River and its various tributaries, the culture's settlements were strategically located to exploit the fertile valleys and nearby mineral resources. The availability of water and arable land supported a stable agricultural and pastoral economy. This geographical setting was fundamental to the development and longevity of the Ahar tradition, allowing it to flourish independently of the Indus heartland.

57. (C) A widespread culture with a long history in southern Rajasthan.

Archaeological research reveals that the Ahar culture was not a fleeting phenomenon but a long-lived and widespread tradition. Occupying the river valleys of southern Rajasthan for several centuries, it developed a stable rural economy based on agriculture and specialized metallurgy. Its distinct ceramic styles and settlement patterns show that it maintained a clear cultural identity over a significant period. This longevity proves that the culture was a major and successful adaptation to its specific regional environment.

58. (A) Kayatha

The Kayatha culture is distinguished by its robust and high-quality ceramic industry. The pottery is typically thick, sturdy, and features a chocolate-colored slip, often enhanced with incised decorations or painted designs. This specialized craft reflects the technical skills of the early Chalcolithic artisans in central India. Such durable and well-made pottery served the practical needs of these early farming communities while also acting as a key marker for identifying their settlements in the archaeological record.

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59. (D) Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

The Malwa culture exhibited a broad geographical footprint, spanning multiple modern states in central India. While its primary concentration was in the Narmada River valley of Madhya Pradesh, its influence and settlements extended significantly into the northern parts of Maharashtra. This wide distribution demonstrates the culture's success in utilizing the fertile soils and river systems of the central plateau. It reflects a period of expansion for settled farming communities across diverse landscapes during the Chalcolithic era.

60. (C) A is true but R is false.

The Jorwe and other Deccan Chalcolithic groups were predominantly rural societies focused on farming and stock-raising. They lived in villages and developed sophisticated pottery and metalwork. However, they lacked the defining features of the Harappan civilization, such as

89. (C) The presence of specialized craft production and long-distance trade.

A key indicator of the civilization's complexity is the presence of a highly organized and diverse economy. Beyond simple farming, the Harappans developed industrial-scale manufacturing for goods like beads, pottery, and metal tools. Furthermore, their participation in long-distance trade, both across the subcontinent and overseas to Mesopotamia, demonstrates a sophisticated level of commercial organization. This combination of specialized production and international exchange supported the social hierarchy and the advanced urban lifestyle that defined the mature phase.

90. (C) 1, 2 and 4 only

Harappan religious life is inferred from numerous small-scale artifacts rather than massive temples. The discovery of female figurines suggests the worship of a mother goddess, while the 'Pashupati' seal points toward a male deity associated with animals. Additionally, depictions of pipal trees and various animals on seals indicate that nature worship was a central element of their spiritual beliefs. These findings collectively suggest a complex and diverse religious system focused on fertility, protection, and the natural world.

91. (D) The emergence of various Post-Urban/Late Harappan regional cultures.

The collapse of the major Indus cities did not result in a total cultural vacuum. Instead, it was followed by a period of transformation known as the Post-Urban or Late Harappan phase. During this time, the previous urban integrated system broke down into several smaller, regional cultures. While these groups lost the previous scale of standardization and urban planning, they retained some Harappan traditions in a more localized and rural context, ensuring a level of cultural survival.

92. (B) Broadly contemporary with the later part of the Harappan civilization and the period after.

The Ochre Coloured Pottery represents a distinct Chalcolithic tradition found in northern India. Chronologically, it is placed in the second millennium before the common era, making it broadly contemporary with the late phase of the Harappan civilization and the period immediately following its decline. This pottery is often associated with early farming communities in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab who used copper tools. Its presence highlights the diverse cultural landscape that existed alongside the fading urban centers of the Indus.

93. (C) Ahar culture was primarily centered in Rajasthan, not the Indus valley.

Although contemporary with some Harappan phases, the Ahar or Banas culture was a distinct and independent tradition. Its primary geographic heartland was the river valleys of southern Rajasthan, far from the core Indus Valley region. The culture was characterized by a rural economy focused on farming and specialized copper metallurgy. Its unique material remains, especially the black-and-red ware pottery, distinguish it from the standardized urban products of the Indus, highlighting the regional diversity of protohistoric India.

94. (D) Successful agricultural practices and adaptability.

The Malwa culture's presence across a vast area of central India and parts of the Deccan is a testament to its successful subsistence strategy. By effectively utilizing the fertile black cotton soils and river systems, these farming communities were able to expand and thrive in diverse environments. Their adaptability allowed them to establish stable villages and a consistent material culture over several centuries. This expansion reflects the growth of agrarian societies and their ability to colonize new territories during the Chalcolithic period.

95. (B) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only

The protohistoric period in India saw the development of several regional traditions that used both copper and stone tools. The Ahar culture of Rajasthan, the Kayatha and Malwa cultures of central India, and the Jorwe culture of the Deccan are all classic examples of these Chalcolithic societies. These groups represent a significant stage of settled farming life. In contrast, other contemporary groups, like the Gandhara Grave culture, are categorized differently based on their specific burial practices and metal use.

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and subsistence over several centuries. The site's development provides a detailed view of how the Harappan tradition evolved and adapted within the specific regional context of Gujarat.

68. (D) Different theories and multiple contributing factors.

The end of South Asia's first urban civilization is a subject of intense scientific inquiry. Because the Harappan script remains undeciphered, researchers cannot rely on written accounts and must instead analyze archaeological and environmental data. Most modern scholars agree that there was no single cause for the decline. Instead, they examine multiple contributing factors, such as shifting river courses, climate change, and economic disruptions, which together led to the gradual de-urbanization of the region.

69. (C) A shift in settlement patterns and a decline in material prosperity.

Archaeological surveys in the Ghaggar-Saraswati region indicate a significant change during the post-urban period. As the mature cities were abandoned, new, smaller settlements emerged with different layout patterns. This transition was accompanied by a decline in the use of standardized weights, seals, and the famous urban pottery. These changes were likely linked to environmental shifts, such as the drying of river systems, which forced the population to adopt a more decentralized and less prosperous rural lifestyle.

70. (A) 3, 2, 4, 1

The chronological progression of ancient South Asian cultures began with early farming communities that formed the background for urbanization. These were followed by the peak Mature Harappan phase with its planned cities. After the urban decline, regional Chalcolithic traditions like the Malwa culture emerged in central India. Finally, the Jorwe culture represented a later and more widespread agricultural expansion in the Deccan. This sequence traces the rise and transformation of complex societies across the subcontinent.

71. (D) The finds of Ochre Coloured Pottery and Copper Hoards.

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The Chalcolithic remains in the Ganga plain are distinct from the urban Harappan tradition. This region is characterized by the discovery of Ochre Coloured Pottery and numerous caches of specialized copper implements known as Copper Hoards. These artifacts belong to a unique cultural complex of farming and metal-using communities that flourished in the fertile river valleys of northern India. Their presence highlights the diversity of settled life that existed simultaneously with and after the Indus civilization's peak.

72. (A) It was a Chalcolithic culture centered in the Narmada valley.

The Malwa culture was a significant Chalcolithic tradition primarily located in the Narmada River valley and the surrounding plateau of central India. It is identified by its beautiful painted pottery and stable agricultural villages. While it was contemporary with some later Harappan phases, it was a distinct rural culture based on copper and stone technology, not iron. Its wide geographic spread across modern Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra demonstrates its success in colonizing the central Indian landscape.

73. (C) Maharashtra

The Jorwe culture represents a major and widespread Chalcolithic development during the second millennium before the common era. Its settlements are predominantly found throughout the semi-arid regions of the Deccan plateau, specifically within the modern state of Maharashtra. These farming communities developed a resilient economy based on dry farming and livestock, creating a dense network of villages. The site of Inamgaon is one of the most famous and extensively excavated examples of this important regional tradition.

74. (A) A high level of integration and possibly a centralized administration.

The remarkable consistency found in Harappan artifacts across a vast territory provides strong evidence for a highly integrated society. The use of the same script, identical weights, and standardized seals suggests that a centralized administration or a powerful social mechanism enforced these standards. Such coordination was

central plains of Madhya Pradesh and the Narmada Valley. Finally, the Jorwe culture was situated the furthest south among these three, centered in the semi-arid Deccan plateau of Maharashtra. This sequence reflects the southward spread of settled agricultural traditions during the protohistoric period.

46. (D) Rakhigarhi

Rakhigarhi is a major archaeological site located in the Hisar district of Haryana. Recent excavations have revealed it to be one of the largest and most significant cities of the Indus Valley Civilization. Its location in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain highlights the importance of this region in the civilization's development. The site provides extensive evidence of urban planning, craft specialization, and long-distance trade, similar to the well-known centers of Harappa and Mohenjodaro.

47. (A) A rectangular brick basin with channels

Lothal is famous for a large, rectangular basin built of burnt bricks, which features sluice gates and inlet channels. Most archaeologists interpret this structure as a dockyard, the earliest known in the world. It allowed ships to enter from the Gulf of Khambhat during high tide for loading and unloading goods. This engineering marvel underscores the importance of maritime trade for the Harappan economy and the city's role as a major coastal commercial hub.

48. (B) Kalibangan

Kalibangan, situated in Rajasthan, provides a unique record of cultural evolution. Excavations revealed two distinct phases: an earlier Pre-Harappan level and a subsequent Mature Harappan stage. A remarkable discovery from the early phase is a ploughed field, which shows a grid pattern of furrows. This suggests that advanced agricultural techniques were already in use before the city reached its urban peak, demonstrating a clear continuity in farming practices throughout the different stages of occupation.

49. (B) The primary mode of land transport for goods and people.

The prevalence of terracotta models of bullock carts at numerous sites suggests that these vehicles were a common sight in Harappan society. While they may have served as toys, their design closely mirrors the full-scale carts used for transporting agricultural produce and trade goods. This indicates that animal-drawn wheeled transport was the primary method for moving materials over land, facilitating the movement of surplus food from villages to the urban centers and supporting regional commerce.

50. (C) 1, 2, 4, and 5 only

The Harappan economy was a complex system supported by several pillars. Agriculture provided the subsistence base, while highly standardized craft production and a system of weights and measures facilitated trade. The interdependence between urban and rural areas was functional, with villages supplying food to city dwellers. Exchange likely occurred through a barter system. However, trade was not limited to neighboring areas; it extended significantly overseas to distant regions like Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf.

51. (C) A focus on ancestor worship and nature, particularly trees and animals.

Harappan religion is inferred from various artifacts rather than written scriptures. Evidence suggests a strong focus on natural elements, including the worship of specific trees like the pipal and various animals. The discovery of numerous terracotta figurines and seals depicting deities indicates a complex belief system involving fertility and protector figures. This nature-centric approach, combined with ritual practices like bathing, formed the core of their spiritual life, which appears distinct from later organized Vedic traditions.

52. (D) Radial street pattern, which is unusual for Harappan sites.

Banawali, an important site in Haryana, displays several unique features that distinguish it from other Harappan cities. While most urban centers followed a strict grid pattern, Banawali features a radial street layout. Excavations here have also yielded significant finds, including a high-quality terracotta model of a plough and a large quantity of barley. These discoveries provide important evidence regarding the agricultural technology and the specific urban planning variations that existed within the broader Indus Civilization.

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82. (A) The easternmost extension of the post-urban, de-centralized Harappan tradition.

The presence of Late Harappan sites in western Uttar Pradesh marks the furthest eastern expansion of the civilization's cultural reach. As the major urban centers in the west declined, the population shifted toward the Ganga-Yamuna Doab. These eastern settlements were smaller and lacked the previous urban sophistication, reflecting a decentralized and regionalized version of the Harappan tradition. This phase illustrates the gradual movement and transformation of the civilization as it adapted to a new geographical environment.

83. (C) Kayatha Culture - Ochre Coloured Pottery

Identifying Chalcolithic cultures involves matching them with their characteristic ceramics. The Ahar culture is famous for its black-and-red ware, and the Malwa culture for its painted red pottery. The Jorwe culture produced a distinct matt-surfaced ware. However, the Kayatha culture is not associated with Ochre Coloured Pottery. Instead, it is identified by a sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware. Ochre Coloured Pottery is a separate tradition primarily found in the Ganga valley and associated with the Copper Hoard complex.

84. (D) A contemporary of the early Harappan phase.

The Kayatha culture represents one of the earliest and most distinct Chalcolithic traditions in central India. Based on chronological data, it is considered to be broadly contemporary with the early, formative phase of the Harappan civilization. Located in the state of Madhya Pradesh, this culture developed its own unique ceramic styles and metalworking techniques. Its early appearance highlights the diverse and independent origins of settled farming and metallurgical communities across different regions of the Indian subcontinent.

85. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

Harappan sites are often identified by their unique features. Lothal is renowned for its massive brick dockyard, while Kalibangan is famous for fire altars and a ploughed field. Mohenjodaro is the location of the iconic Great Bath, a center for ritual activity. Dholavira stands out for its unique three-part urban division and sophisticated water management system. Matching these sites with their most prominent architectural and functional characteristics is essential for understanding the diversity within the Indus Civilization.

86. (B) Evolved from earlier, simpler village farming communities.

This concept emphasizes that the Harappan civilization was not a sudden arrival or a foreign imposition. Instead, it was the result of a long, local evolutionary process. Over many centuries, simple village farming communities in the northwestern region gradually developed more complex social structures, specialized crafts, and extensive trade networks. This internal progression eventually culminated in the emergence of the sophisticated and integrated urban system that characterizes the mature phase of this great ancient civilization.

87. (D) The presence of indigenous cultures that interacted with and contributed to the Harappan phenomenon.

Archaeological evidence from Gujarat reveals a complex cultural landscape prior to the mature urban phase. Indigenous communities were already present, developing their own local traditions and engaging in early forms of exchange. These regional cultures did not vanish but rather interacted with and influenced the incoming Harappan urban ethos. This interaction contributed to the unique regional character of the civilization in western India, showing that urbanization was a collaborative process involving both local and pan-regional elements.

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88. (A) The ability of agricultural surpluses to support non-food producers.

The complex Harappan urban system could only be maintained because of a reliable agricultural surplus. Rural farming communities produced more food than they needed, which was then collected and transported to support the non-agricultural population living in the cities. This included rulers, priests, artisans, and merchants. This economic flow between the countryside and the urban centers allowed for the development of specialized professions and the maintenance of large-scale infrastructure, forming the civilization's core strength.

standardized urban planning, massive public architecture, and a writing system. While they were complex in their own right, equating their social and political structure to the full-blown urbanism of the Indus Valley is factually incorrect.

61. (C) Ahar

The Deccan region hosted several important Chalcolithic traditions, including the Savalda, Malwa, and Jorwe cultures. These groups were centered in the river valleys of modern Maharashtra and parts of Madhya Pradesh. In contrast, the Ahar culture was located further north, specifically in the Banas River valley of southern Rajasthan. While contemporary with some Deccan cultures, the Ahar tradition belonged to a distinct geographical and cultural zone defined by its own unique ceramic styles and economy.

62. (D) Formative stages of the Harappa culture.

The development of distinct regional traditions in the northern and northwestern parts of the subcontinent was a fundamental part of the formative stages of the Harappa culture. These early communities established the agricultural base, social organization, and craft skills that eventually coalesced into the integrated urban civilization. By studying these early phases, archaeologists can trace the evolutionary path from simple village life to the sophisticated and standardized urban system that defined the mature phase.

63. (A) The transition from the urban to the post-urban phase.

Rangpur is a key site in Gujarat for understanding the long-term history of the Harappan tradition. Excavations there have revealed a sequence of occupation that spans from the mature urban phase into the subsequent late or post-urban period. The changing styles of pottery and settlement patterns at Rangpur provide critical evidence for how the civilization transformed over time. It illustrates the gradual process of regionalization and the shift toward smaller, less standardized rural communities in western India.

64. (B) The pattern of agriculture that persisted into the mature phase.

The discovery of a ploughed field at the early levels of Kalibangan is a vital piece of evidence for Harappan history. The grid pattern of furrows indicates that the people had already developed advanced agricultural techniques, possibly involving the simultaneous cultivation of two different crops. This established pattern of farming persisted into the subsequent mature urban phase, demonstrating that the civilization's complex food production system was built upon technologies developed during its earlier, formative stages.

65. (A) 1 and 4 only

The Harappan script remains one of the great mysteries of antiquity. Most inscriptions are found on small steatite seals and appear to be written from right to left. The system consists of several hundred unique signs, suggesting a logographic or syllabic nature. Despite numerous attempts, the script has not been successfully deciphered. Furthermore, it is not found on monumental temple walls but rather on portable objects related to administration, trade, and personal identity.

66. (A) Mature Harappan craft activities.

Bagasra is an important site in Gujarat that has yielded extensive evidence of craft specialization during the mature urban phase. Excavations revealed workshops dedicated to the production of beads and shell objects, along with numerous seals and weights. These findings indicate that the site functioned as a specialized industrial and commercial center. Such evidence is crucial for understanding the complex manufacturing and trade networks that linked various Harappan settlements across the vast civilization.

67. (C) Its extensive evidence of the transition through various Harappan phases.

Rojdi is a unique Harappan site located in the heart of the Saurashtra peninsula. Unlike many other settlements that were abandoned after the urban peak, Rojdi shows a continuous sequence of occupation through various phases. This long-term record allows archaeologists to study the gradual changes in material culture, architecture,

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96. (B) Post-Harappan agricultural expansion into central and southern India.

These Deccan traditions represent a significant movement of settled agricultural life into the central and southern parts of the subcontinent following the decline of the Indus urban centers. While they adopted some technologies from the north, they developed their own unique regional identities centered on a rural, farming-based economy. These cultures allowed for the colonization of fertile plateaus and river valleys, establishing a foundation of agrarian villages that would eventually lead to the development of more complex historical societies.

97. (B) Sophisticated urban planning and civic amenities.

The most remarkable achievement of the Harappan civilization is undoubtedly its advanced urban planning. Cities were meticulously laid out with a grid system of streets and featured a highly sophisticated, covered drainage network that served individual houses. This level of civic organization and focus on public hygiene was unique in the ancient world. Such systematic planning indicates a powerful administrative authority and a high value placed on orderly urban living and the welfare of the city's inhabitants.

98. (A) Large fortified cities on par with Harappa.

The Jorwe culture was a major Chalcolithic tradition defined by its stable agricultural villages in the Deccan region. It is recognized for its unique black-on-red pottery and its successful adaptation to the semi-arid environment. However, it was primarily a rural society and did not build massive, planned cities like Harappa or Mohenjodaro. While its villages were well-organized, they lacked the monumental architecture, standardized urban grids, and writing system that characterized the true urban phase of the Indus civilization.

99. (C) Objects made of copper, such as axes, harpoons, and anthropomorphic figures.

This archaeological phenomenon is identified by large caches of specialized metal objects found primarily in the Ganga valley. The hoards consist of a variety of copper items, including heavy celts, harpoons, and unique anthropomorphic figures. These artifacts display a high level of metallurgical skill and are distinct from the metalwork of the Harappans. They represent the specialized craft traditions of the farming communities that inhabited the fertile plains of northern India during the second millennium before the common era.

100. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Modern archaeological research has shifted away from viewing the Harappan decline as a sudden collapse. Instead, evidence from sites in Gujarat and the Ganga valley shows a gradual process where urban features were slowly lost. This de-urbanization led to the emergence of smaller, regional settlements that still carried on some older traditions. This transformation proves that while the grand cities disappeared, the underlying cultural elements persisted in a new, more localized and rural form across the northern subcontinent.

101. (C) Ghaggar-Hakra River

Rakhigarhi is one of the largest and most significant cities of the Indus Civilization, located in the modern state of Haryana. It was strategically built along the banks of the Ghaggar-Hakra river system, which is now largely a dry bed. This river was once a major waterway that supported numerous urban and rural settlements. The site's size and complexity highlight the importance of the eastern Indus region in the civilization's overall economic and political structure.

102. (B) The economy was based on a combination of agriculture and craft production for both internal and external trade.

The Harappan economy was a sophisticated and open system that integrated various sectors. It relied on a stable agricultural foundation to support a diverse population. Beyond local subsistence, the civilization engaged in industrial-scale craft production, creating standardized goods for both internal consumption and export. Archaeological evidence of Indus artifacts in foreign lands proves their participation in robust long-distance trade networks. This combination of farming, manufacturing, and international

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commerce was essential for sustaining their complex urban society and social hierarchy.

103. (D) The early period of development from village farming to regional cultures.

In the history of the Indus Civilization, this phrase describes the early period of development that occurred before the mature urban phase. During this time, small village farming communities began to evolve into larger settlements with more complex social and economic structures. These early groups established the technological skills, trade patterns, and agricultural foundations that would eventually allow for the emergence of the highly integrated and standardized urban centers that characterized the peak of the Harappa culture.

104. (A) Banawali

Gujarat was a critical region for the expansion of the Harappan civilization, hosting several famous sites. Lothal served as a major port, Dholavira showcased advanced water engineering, and Rangpur provides a long record of cultural transformation. Each of these settlements is located within the geographic boundaries of modern Gujarat. In contrast, Banawali is another important Harappan urban center, but it is situated in the state of Haryana, near the eastern limits of the civilization's primary territory.

105. (A) 4, 2, 1, 3

The evolution of early South Asian society followed a logical path of increasing complexity. It began with the establishment of simple Chalcolithic farming villages, which provided the subsistence base. Over time, regional cultures emerged in the northwestern plains, leading to the development of a unified urban ethos and the peak mature phase. Finally, the civilization underwent a process of decline and de-urbanization. This sequence reflects the long-term historical trajectory from small agrarian communities to a massive, integrated urban civilization.

106. (A) Existence of significant regional variations within the broader Harappan culture.

The use of different archaeological terms for sites in Gujarat highlights the significant regional variations within the broader Harappan culture. The Sindhi variant represents the standardized urban forms imported from the heartland, while the Sorath variant reflects local adaptations and indigenous traditions. This distinction shows that the civilization was not a perfectly uniform block but rather a complex mosaic of regional identities that interacted with a shared urban framework, creating a diverse cultural landscape across western India.

107. (D) The easternmost reach of the Harappan cultural tradition.

As the major urban centers in the west were abandoned, there was a noticeable shift of the population toward the east. The presence of Late Harappan sites in western Uttar Pradesh represents the furthest reach of this cultural tradition in that direction. These settlements were smaller and lacked the previous urban scale, showing how the civilization transformed as it moved into the Ganga-Yamuna Doab. This eastern frontier marks the final chapter of the Harappan tradition's geographic expansion.

108. (B) Savalda, Malwa, and Jorwe

The Chalcolithic era in central and southern India is defined by a sequence of distinct cultural traditions. The Savalda, Malwa, and Jorwe cultures are frequently grouped together as the primary agricultural societies of the Deccan region. These groups shared common features like the use of copper and stone tools and a reliance on farming and livestock. Together, they represent a significant expansion of settled village life across the fertile plateaus and river valleys of the modern state of Maharashtra.

109. (C) The discovery of OCP sherds in the same strata as copper implements at some sites.

Archaeological evidence linking the Ochre Coloured Pottery with the Copper Hoards comes from their shared stratigraphic and geographic contexts. At several sites in northern India, sherds of this specific pottery have been found in the same soil layers as caches of copper tools. This proximity strongly suggests that the makers of the pottery and the creators of the metal hoards belonged to the same cultural complex. These groups represent the specialized metallurgical and agricultural traditions of the Ganga valley.

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110. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only

The Ahar culture was a prominent Chalcolithic tradition centered in the river valleys of southern Rajasthan. Its people were skilled farmers and pastoralists who also excelled in copper smelting due to local ore availability. They are particularly famous for their distinct black-and-red ware pottery, often decorated with white designs. However, unlike the Harappan civilization, the Ahar culture remained essentially rural and did not develop large, planned cities or a writing system, maintaining a distinct regional identity over several centuries.

111. (A) One of the earliest Chalcolithic cultures of Central India.

The Kayatha culture is recognized as one of the most ancient Chalcolithic traditions within central India. Centered in the Chambal River valley of Madhya Pradesh, its appearance marks an early stage in the development of settled farming and metal-using societies outside the Indus region. Identified by its unique sturdy pottery and specialized stone tools, the Kayatha culture established the foundation for subsequent agricultural expansion. Its early chronology highlights the diverse and independent origins of protohistoric cultures across the subcontinent.

112. (B) Malwa and Jorwe

The agricultural success of several Chalcolithic traditions was deeply tied to their environment. The Malwa and Jorwe cultures, in particular, flourished by utilizing the moisture-retentive black cotton soil found in the Narmada Valley and the Deccan plateau. This fertile land was ideal for growing a variety of crops, allowing these farming communities to establish stable and widespread village networks. The ability to effectively exploit this specific soil was a key factor in the longevity and expansion of these agrarian societies.

113. (C) The Effect is a logical consequence of the Cause.

A logical relationship existed between the civilization's production capabilities and its commercial activities. Because the Harappans possessed advanced craft specialization and access to a variety of raw materials, they were able to produce a surplus of high-quality goods. This surplus naturally led to the development of trade as a means of exchanging manufactured products for exotic materials and resources not available locally. Thus, their internal industrial strength was the driving force behind their participation in both regional and international commerce.

114. (A) It possessed a script which is yet to be deciphered.

Historians use this classification for societies like the Harappan because they existed in a period of transition where literacy was present but its records remain silent to us. While the civilization left behind thousands of inscriptions on seals and pottery, the script has not been successfully deciphered. This prevents us from reading their names, stories, or specific historical events. Consequently, our entire understanding of their culture must be built through the analysis of physical artifacts and archaeological remains.

115. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

Identifying Chalcolithic cultures involves matching their unique ceramic traditions. The Kayatha culture is known for its sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware. The Ahar culture is defined by its black-and-red ware with white paintings. The Jorwe culture produced a matt-surfaced red ware with specific vessel shapes like carinated bowls. Finally, the Malwa culture is celebrated for its highly artistic and richly painted black-on-red pottery. These distinct styles serve as essential markers for archaeologists to differentiate between these diverse regional farming communities.

116. (D) Early Harappan / Pre-Urban phase

The roots of the Harappan civilization are found in the development of localized traditions across the northern and northwestern plains. During this early, formative period, different regions began to establish their own unique ceramic styles and settlement patterns. These regional cultures provided the demographic and technological background that eventually coalesced into the unified and integrated urban ethos of the mature phase. Studying this period is essential for understanding how the civilization

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unique regional identities and rural economies. In contrast, terms like Sorath Harappan refer specifically to regional variants of the Harappan culture itself rather than independent, non-Harappan Chalcolithic traditions.

131. (C) Malwa

The Malwa culture was a significant Chalcolithic tradition that found its primary heartland in the fertile Narmada River valley. This environment provided the necessary resources for a stable agricultural economy and allowed the culture to establish a wide geographic footprint across central India. Known for its beautiful and distinctive painted pottery, the Malwa culture represents a mature stage of settled village life. Its success in the Narmada valley highlights the importance of this region in the expansion of early agrarian societies.

132. (D) Kalibangan - Punjab, India

Mapping Harappan sites is essential for understanding the civilization's geography. Mohenjodaro is located in the Sindh province of Pakistan, and Dholavira is in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India. Rakhigarhi is another massive city found in Haryana, India. However, Kalibangan, famous for its early ploughed field and fire altars, is situated in the state of Rajasthan, India, along the banks of the dry Ghaggar River, not in the state of Punjab.

133. (C) A process of urbanization.

The movement from small, scattered villages to integrated urban centers is the core process of urbanization. For the Harappan civilization, this transition involved the development of standardized materials, sophisticated town planning, and a unified system of weights and measures. As social and economic complexity increased, previously independent regional cultures were brought together into a single, highly organized urban system. This transformation allowed for larger populations, specialized professions, and the creation of the massive public infrastructure that defined the mature phase.

134. (D) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Harappan religious life is not defined by massive, dedicated temples like those found in contemporary Egypt or Mesopotamia. Instead, researchers must infer their spiritual practices from smaller artifacts and specific urban features. Numerous terracotta figurines suggest the worship of a mother goddess, while steatite seals depict various deities and nature-centric symbols. The presence of structures like the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro also points toward ritual bathing and purification as central elements of their religious activity, performed within the urban fabric.

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135. (C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

Different Harappan sites are distinguished by their specific architectural and archaeological finds. Banawali is noted for its radial streets and a high-quality terracotta plough model. Lothal is famous for its massive brick dockyard and bead manufacturing. Kalibangan features ritual fire altars and the earliest known ploughed field. Dholavira stands out for its unique three-part urban division and sophisticated stone-cut reservoirs. Identifying these sites with their respective hallmarks is crucial for understanding the diversity of urban life in the Indus Civilization.

136. (A) A continuation of Harappan life but without the urban structure.

The end of the urban phase in the Indus heartland did not mean the total disappearance of the people. In regions like Sindh and Punjab, archaeological evidence shows a transition into a post-urban state. During this period, the previous integrated urban structure broke down, and people lived in smaller, less organized settlements. While they lost the previous level of standardization and grand architecture, they maintained many Harappan cultural traits, showing that life continued in a more decentralized and rural fashion.

137. (C) Banas/Ahar Culture

This specific Chalcolithic tradition flourished in the river valleys of southern Rajasthan. Centered around the Banas River and its tributaries, the culture is named after the prominent site of Ahar. It is easily identified by its unique black-and-red ware pottery, which was often decorated with white designs. The people were early pioneers

complex geometric patterns. This distinctive Malwa Ware reflects the high level of craft skill and aesthetic sense possessed by the farming communities that inhabited the Narmada Valley and central Indian plateaus.

124. (B) An early Chalcolithic phase in the Deccan region, particularly in Maharashtra.

In the history of the Deccan region, the Savalda culture is recognized as the earliest stage of Chalcolithic development. Predominantly found in the Tapti River valley of northern Maharashtra, it represents the first established farming and metal-using communities in the area. Identified by its unique painted pottery, this culture laid the foundation for the subsequent expansion of more widespread traditions like the Malwa and Jorwe. Its early presence underscores the long history of settled agricultural life in the central Indian landscape.

125. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Jorwe culture was perfectly adapted to the semi-arid environment of the Deccan plateau. To survive in this landscape, these farming communities practiced dry farming, focusing on drought-resistant crops. They supplemented their diet through livestock raising and by exploiting local rivers for fish. This resilient subsistence strategy allowed the Jorwe people to establish a dense network of villages across the modern state of Maharashtra. Their success demonstrates the ability of early agrarian societies to thrive in challenging environments through specialized economic practices.

126. (D) The deep southern peninsula of India

The Harappan civilization was one of the most geographically extensive cultures of the ancient world, spanning northwestern India and most of modern Pakistan. Its settlements are found in diverse environments, from the mountains of Afghanistan to the coastal plains of Gujarat and the river valleys of Haryana. However, archaeological surveys have not found any evidence of mature urban Harappan settlements in the deep southern regions of the Indian peninsula. The civilization's southern limit reached the coastal areas of Gujarat but did not extend further south.

127. (A) Terracotta human figurines

While the Harappan civilization is famous for its standardized materials, not every craft followed strict rules. Artifacts like bricks, weights, and steatite seals show a remarkable consistency in size, shape, and design across thousands of miles. In contrast, terracotta human figurines exhibit much greater variety. These objects were likely made by many different people for diverse personal or ritual reasons, resulting in various styles and levels of quality. This diversity reflects the more informal and individualistic side of Harappan artistic expression.

128. (B) Sites in Western Uttar Pradesh

Following the decline of the major urban centers in the west, there was a noticeable shift of the population toward the eastern regions. Archaeologists have discovered numerous sites in western Uttar Pradesh that belong to this late or post-urban phase. These settlements were smaller and lacked the previous urban sophistication, representing a de-centralized version of the Harappan tradition. The presence of these sites provides critical evidence for how the civilization transformed and adapted as it moved into the Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

129. (B) Evidence of OCP and Copper Hoards.

The protohistoric archaeology of the Ganga plain is defined by a unique set of material remains. This region lacks the massive planned cities of the Indus but is rich in evidence of early farming and metalworking communities. The two most prominent markers of these cultures are the Ochre Coloured Pottery and numerous caches of specialized copper tools known as Copper Hoards. These artifacts together represent a widespread and distinct Chalcolithic complex that flourished in the fertile river valleys of northern India.

130. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only

Outside the primary urban heartland of the Indus, several distinct Chalcolithic traditions developed. The Ahar culture in Rajasthan, the Kayatha assemblage in central India, and the widespread Malwa culture are all recognized as independent farming and metal-using societies. While they were contemporary with the Harappan civilization, they maintained their own

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evolved from simple village life into a massive urban society.

117. (C) Supporting a specialized urban population not engaged in food production.

The functional division between urban centers and rural hinterlands was essential for the civilization's survival and complexity. Cities housed a specialized population of rulers, administrators, priests, and artisans who were not directly involved in food production. These urban dwellers depended entirely on the agricultural surplus generated by the surrounding villages. This economic relationship allowed for the development of advanced crafts, long-distance trade, and the maintenance of large-scale public infrastructure, which were the hallmarks of the sophisticated Harappan urban lifestyle.

118. (B) Ethno-linguistic affiliation.

Scholars continue to investigate the origins of the people who built the Indus Civilization. This inquiry focuses on their ethno-linguistic identity, attempting to determine what language they spoke and their genetic relationship to modern populations. By analyzing script symbols, skeletal remains, and cultural continuity, researchers seek to discover if the Harappans were ancestral to Dravidian speakers, Indo-Aryans, or another group. This debate is fundamental for understanding the human legacy and the long-term historical development of the South Asian subcontinent.

119. (D) Its division into three principal parts: a citadel, a middle town, and a lower town.

Dholavira, a massive Harappan city in Gujarat, is distinguished by its unique tripartite urban layout. Unlike most Indus cities that are divided into a citadel and a lower town, Dholavira features three distinct fortified areas: a citadel, a middle town, and a lower town. This elaborate structure, combined with its sophisticated stone architecture and extraordinary water management system, highlights the city's importance as a major administrative and commercial hub and showcases the diversity of urban planning within the Indus Civilization.

120. (B) 2, 3, and 5 only

Modern research into the end of the Indus Civilization suggests a complex process rather than a single event. While older theories like the Aryan invasion are still discussed, most scholars now emphasize environmental factors such as climate change and shifting river courses as primary causes. These disruptions led to a gradual de-urbanization where people moved to smaller, regional settlements. This phase shows that while the great cities disappeared, the population remained in the subcontinent, continuing their traditions in a transformed, rural form.

121. (C) Its tendency to leave a residue on hands due to poor firing and waterlogged conditions.

The naming of this specific ceramic tradition is based on its physical properties when recovered from the ground. Because the pottery was often poorly fired and has spent millennia in waterlogged conditions, its surface tends to weather easily. This results in a fine, ochre-colored powder that rubs off onto the hands of anyone who handles the sherds. This distinct characteristic has become the primary identifier for this late Chalcolithic pottery type, which is found across the fertile plains of northern India.

122. (A) Its relative proximity to copper sources and evidence of smelting.

The Ahar culture was uniquely positioned to become a center for early metallurgy in western India. Located in the river valleys of southern Rajasthan, these settlements were in close proximity to the rich copper ore deposits of the Aravalli hills. Archaeological evidence of copper smelting and numerous finished tools at sites like Ahar confirms that the community excelled in metalwork. This specialized industrial focus, combined with agriculture, allowed the culture to thrive as a distinct regional tradition contemporary with the Harappan civilization.

123. (D) Distinctive black-on-red pottery with a coarse fabric.

The Malwa culture is most easily identified in the archaeological record by its sophisticated and highly artistic ceramic industry. Its pottery is typically a coarse-to-medium fabric ware featuring a thick slip and elaborate designs painted in black on a red or orange background. These motifs often include animals, plants, and

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in copper smelting and lived in established rural communities. Their distinct material culture and geographical focus set them apart from the contemporary urban systems of the Indus Valley.

138. (A) The spread of farming communities into peninsular India.

Researching the Chalcolithic cultures of the Deccan is vital for understanding the long-term history of South Asia. These traditions, such as the Malwa and Jorwe cultures, represent the first major expansion of settled farming and metal-using communities into the central and southern parts of the subcontinent. By studying their villages, pottery, and agricultural practices, archaeologists can trace how early agrarian societies adapted to the fertile plateaus of the Deccan, creating a foundation for the subsequent development of complex historical kingdoms.

139. (D) Malwa Culture

Based on the archaeological finds described, the site is most likely associated with the Malwa culture. This tradition is characterized by its presence in the Narmada Valley and its distinctive coarse red pottery painted with black designs. The inclusion of specialized vessel shapes like channel-spouted pots is a hallmark of this culture's ceramic repertoire. Such artifacts reflect the craft skills and artistic tastes of the farming communities that established stable and widespread villages across the central Indian landscape during the Chalcolithic period.

140. (D) A false but R is true.

The end of South Asia's first urban civilization was not a sudden, uniform collapse. Instead, modern research shows it was a complex and gradual process that unfolded differently across various regions. While some cities were abandoned relatively quickly, others underwent a long period of de-urbanization and transformation into smaller settlements. This transition stretched over several centuries, influenced by a combination of environmental, economic, and social factors. Viewing the decline as a single, catastrophic event is an outdated and inaccurate historical perspective.

141. (C) Formative stage leading to urbanization.

The development of distinct regional traditions within the Ghaggar-Saraswati river system was a fundamental part of the formative stages of the Harappa culture. These early communities developed the agricultural techniques, social organization, and craft skills that provided the foundation for urbanization. Over time, these localized cultures were integrated into the broader, standardized urban system of the mature phase. Studying this evolutionary process is essential for understanding how the civilization grew from a base of regional village life into a massive urban society.

142. (D) Logo-syllabic and undeciphered

The Harappan writing system remains one of the most intriguing puzzles of ancient history. It is generally described as logo-syllabic, meaning the symbols can represent both whole words and specific sounds. Despite thousands of examples found on seals and pottery, the script remains undeciphered because no bilingual text has ever been discovered to provide a key. This lack of a translation means that the specific names and historical accounts of the Harappans continue to be a mystery to modern scholars.

143. (A) Mature Harappan craft production and trade.

Bagasra is a significant site in Gujarat that has provided valuable information about the mature urban phase of the Indus Civilization. Excavations at this fortified settlement revealed extensive workshops for the production of beads and shell objects. These findings, along with the discovery of standardized weights and seals, highlight the site's role as a major industrial and commercial hub. Such evidence is crucial for reconstructing the complex trade and manufacturing networks that linked various Harappan settlements across the vast civilization.

144. (B) localization of material culture, seen in ceramics like Lustrous Red Ware.

The period following the urban decline in Gujarat is characterized by a shift toward more localized material culture. A prominent example of this is the emergence of Lustrous Red Ware, a specific type of pottery that became widespread during the post-urban phase. This transition reflects a move away from the standardized urban products of the Indus heartland toward regional styles.

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highlight the cultural diversity of the northern parts of the subcontinent.

172. (B) influential and long-lasting Chalcolithic tradition in its region.

Archaeological research into the Ahar or Banas culture reveals that it was a deeply rooted and successful tradition in southern Rajasthan. Settlements were occupied for several centuries, maintaining a consistent rural identity based on farming and specialized copper work. Its wide distribution across the regional river valleys proves that it was an influential and long-lasting Chalcolithic tradition. This longevity underscores the culture's significance as a major adaptation to its specific environment, allowing it to flourish independently of the contemporary urban systems of the Indus Valley.

173. (C) Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

The Malwa culture is named after the Malwa plateau, where a large number of its significant settlements were first discovered. This widespread Chalcolithic tradition occupied the fertile plateaus and river valleys of modern-day Madhya Pradesh and parts of Maharashtra. Its success was based on a stable agricultural economy and a distinctive painted pottery. The culture represents a major stage of settled village life in central India, and its wide geographic reach reflects the expansion of agrarian societies across the diverse landscapes of the central plateau and Narmada Valley.

174. (D) Savalda

In the archaeological sequence of the Deccan, several distinct Chalcolithic phases followed one another. In many parts of northern Maharashtra, the Savalda culture is recognized as the earliest stage of settled farming life. It typically precedes the arrival of more widespread traditions like the Malwa and the subsequent Jorwe culture. This progression reflects the continuous and evolving history of agricultural communities in the region. Studying these successive phases allows archaeologists to trace how early agrarian societies expanded and adapted within the Deccan landscape over many centuries.

175. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1

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The chronological development of protohistoric societies in India followed a clear progression of increasing regional expansion. The Mature Harappan Culture represents the peak of urbanization in the northwest. It was followed by the emergence of distinct Chalcolithic traditions in central and southern India, beginning with the Kayatha culture. This was succeeded by the widespread Malwa culture and finally by the Jorwe culture, which represents the latest and most extensive phase of settled village life in the Deccan. This sequence traces the spread and transformation of agrarian societies.

176. (B) development of specialized non-agricultural professions.

The complex Harappan urban system relied on a specialized economic relationship between different types of settlements. This urban-rural dichotomy allowed for the development of a diverse social structure. While rural communities focused on agricultural production, they generated a surplus that supported the non-farming population in the cities. This enabled urban dwellers to become specialized professionals, such as rulers, administrators, priests, and skilled artisans. This functional interdependence was essential for maintaining the civilization's sophisticated infrastructure, long-distance trade, and the high level of craft specialization found in urban centers.

177. (B) An established agricultural technology and pattern before the mature phase.

The discovery of a ploughed field from the early, formative levels of Kalibangan is a vital piece of evidence for the history of technology. The presence of clear furrow patterns shows that the population had already developed advanced agricultural techniques well before the city reached its urban peak. This established pattern of farming, likely involving the use of animal-drawn ploughs, persisted into the mature phase. It proves that the civilization's complex food production system was built upon refined agricultural traditions developed during its earlier stages of growth.

178. (A) The mature and late phases of the Harappan civilization.

transition to urban life. This formative period was the direct precursor to the Harappan Civilization, demonstrating that urbanization was the culmination of an internal evolutionary process rooted in settled agricultural traditions.

152. (A) Lothal

Lothal is one of the most important archaeological sites in Gujarat, recognized as a major commercial and maritime hub of the Indus Civilization. It is famous for a large, brick-lined basin that most researchers interpret as a dockyard, the earliest known in the world. Its strategic location near the Gulf of Khambhat allowed the Harappans to engage in sea-borne trade with distant regions like Mesopotamia. This port town played a vital role in the civilization's economy, facilitating the exchange of exotic materials and manufactured goods.

153. (C) Regional variation in material culture

The use of different archaeological terms for sites in Gujarat is a prime example of the regional diversity that existed within the broader Harappan culture. The Sindhi variant represents the standardized urban forms imported from the Indus heartland, while the Sorath variant reflects localized ceramic styles and adaptations. This distinction highlights the complex process of cultural interaction and identity formation in western India. It shows that the civilization was a mosaic of regional traditions that operated within a shared urban and administrative framework.

154. (A) complex interplay of multiple factors, both natural and human.

Modern historical and archaeological perspectives on the end of the Indus Civilization emphasize that no single cause can explain its decline. Instead, evidence points toward a complex interplay of multiple factors, including environmental changes like shifting river courses, climate instability, and potential economic disruptions. These combined pressures led to a gradual process of de-urbanization and the transformation of the civilization into smaller, regional cultures. This nuanced view acknowledges the resilience of the population as they adapted to a changing and challenging landscape.

155. (B) 1, 3 and 4 only

The peak of the Harappan civilization is defined by several key features. These include sophisticated town planning with a grid system, advanced public architecture, and a highly standardized system of crafts, weights, and measures. Furthermore, evidence of artifacts in distant lands proves their participation in robust overseas trade. However, their economy was not based solely on commerce; it was supported by a stable and productive agricultural base. This combination of farming, manufacturing, and international trade was the foundation of their complex urban society.

156. (B) Ganga plain

These two archaeological phenomena are the primary markers of the Chalcolithic period in northern India. The Ochre Coloured Pottery and the caches of specialized metal tools known as Copper Hoards are predominantly found across the fertile plains of the Ganga river system and the surrounding doab. They represent the distinctive material remains of settled farming and metallurgical communities that lived in the region during the second millennium before the common era. Their presence highlights the cultural diversity of the northern subcontinent.

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157. (C) Southern Rajasthan

Centered in the river valleys of southern Rajasthan, the Ahar or Banas culture was a significant regional tradition of the Chalcolithic era. It is named after the important archaeological site of Ahar near modern-day Udaipur. The people were skilled farmers and pastoralists who also excelled in copper smelting due to the proximity of local ore deposits. Identified by their unique black-and-red ware pottery, this culture maintained a stable rural identity for several centuries, developing independently from the contemporary urban systems of the Indus.

158. (D) Malwa culture

The Malwa culture was a widespread Chalcolithic tradition that dominated the fertile plateaus and river valleys of central India. It is specifically associated with the Malwa region and the Narmada Valley, where many of its major settlements have been discovered. This culture is

While the grand cities were fading, the population continued to live in smaller settlements, adapting their cultural practices to new conditions.

145. (C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only

The Chalcolithic period in India was a significant era of transition, defined by the use of copper and stone tools among settled farming communities. Major regional traditions like the Ahar culture in Rajasthan, the Malwa culture in the Narmada Valley, and the Jorwe culture in the Deccan represent this stage of social development. While these groups were complex and well-organized, they were essentially rural village societies. Unlike the Harappans, they did not develop large, planned cities, monumental architecture, or a writing system.

146. (A) Spouted vessels and carinated bowls.

The pottery of the Jorwe culture is noted for its high-quality, matt-surfaced red fabric and its unique vessel shapes. Among the most characteristic forms are spouted jars and carinated bowls, which were often decorated with black painted geometric designs. These specialized ceramics reflect the technical skills and aesthetic traditions of the Chalcolithic farming communities in the Deccan. Such distinctive pottery serves as a key marker for archaeologists to identify Jorwe settlements and understand the craft specialization that existed within these early village societies.

147. (C) great age and long duration of the culture.

In the study of the Ahar or Banas culture, this term highlights the long-lasting and ancient nature of the tradition. Archaeological evidence shows that these settlements in southern Rajasthan were occupied for many centuries, maintaining a stable rural identity. Their early development of copper smelting and their distinct ceramic styles prove that they were a deeply rooted and successful adaptation to their regional environment. This longevity underscores the culture's significance as a major and enduring part of India's protohistoric cultural landscape.

148. (D) Madhya Pradesh

This term refers to the unique set of material remains, including pottery, stone tools, and metal objects, that define one of the earliest Chalcolithic traditions in central India. Centered in the Chambal River valley of Madhya Pradesh, the Kayatha culture represents the first major stage of settled farming and metal use in that region. Identified by its sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware, this culture established the foundation for subsequent agricultural expansion. Its early chronology highlights the independent development of complex farming and metal-using societies across different regions of the South Asian subcontinent.

149. (C) culture of the central Indian river valleys.

The Malwa culture flourished across a broad geographic area, primarily focused on the fertile plateaus and river valleys of central India. Its primary heartland was the Malwa region and the Narmada Valley, where the population exploited the rich black cotton soil for agriculture. By establishing stable village networks and a consistent material culture over several centuries, the Malwa people showed a high level of success in colonizing the central Indian landscape. This reflects the growth and expansion of early agrarian societies during the Chalcolithic.

150. (B) The Harappan civilization was contemporary with some Chalcolithic cultures and was itself a form of urban Chalcolithic culture.

The Harappan civilization was not an isolated phenomenon but existed within a broader landscape of diverse cultures. While it reached a unique level of urbanization, it was itself a form of urban Chalcolithic culture, using both copper and stone. During its mature phase, the civilization was contemporary with several other regional Chalcolithic traditions, such as the Ahar culture. These different groups interacted through trade and shared technologies, showing that the protohistoric period was a time of simultaneous development for various complex societies.

151. (D) The Harappan Civilization

The rise of South Asia's first urban civilization was built upon a long-term agricultural foundation. The establishment of village farming communities in the northern and northwestern plains provided the necessary subsistence base and demographic growth. These early groups developed the technological skills and social organization that eventually allowed for the

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identifying features. The formative Early Harappan stage is marked by the emergence of regional cultures. The Mature Urban phase is defined by standardized materials and planned cities. The Post-Urban phase involves a decline in urbanism and a return to regionalization. Finally, the Ahar culture is a distinct Chalcolithic tradition in Rajasthan known for its black-and-red ware. This sequence traces the rise, peak, and transformation of complex societies across the northern subcontinent.

166. (B) sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware, often with incised patterns.

The Kayatha culture is distinguished by its unique and high-quality ceramic production. Its pottery repertoire includes a sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware that often features incised decorations. Additionally, it produced a buff-colored ware with delicate paintings in red. These specialized artifacts reflect the technical skills and artistic traditions of the early Chalcolithic communities in central India. Such distinct pottery serves as an essential marker for archaeologists to identify Kayatha settlements and understand the craft specialization that existed within these early metal-using farming societies.

167. (D) Maharashtra

The Jorwe culture represents a major and widespread Chalcolithic development during the second millennium before the common era. It is the most representative and extensive protohistoric culture found within the modern state of Maharashtra. These farming communities established a dense network of well-organized villages throughout the semi-arid Deccan plateau. By developing a resilient economy based on dry farming and livestock, the Jorwe people showed a high level of success in adapting to their regional environment, creating a long-lasting and significant cultural tradition in the area.

168. (A) Village farming settlements to urban centers

The study of the civilization's origins focuses on the transition from simple regional traditions to an integrated urban system. During this formative period, early communities developed the agricultural base, craft skills, and social structures that eventually coalesced into the Mature Harappan phase. This evolutionary path involved the movement from scattered village farming settlements to larger, more complex urban centers with standardized materials and planning. Understanding this transition is essential for tracing the internal growth and development of South Asia's first massive and coordinated civilization.

169. (C) A structure for ritual bathing and purification.

The Great Bath at Mohenjodaro is one of the most iconic structures of the Indus Civilization. Most archaeologists interpret this large, brick-lined, and bitumen-sealed pool as a site for ritual bathing and purification. Its prominent location within the citadel and its sophisticated engineering suggest that it played a central role in the city's spiritual life. Such practices of public or collective ritual washing were likely important for the religious and social cohesion of the urban community, highlighting the importance of hygiene and water in their culture.

170. (A) 1, 3, and 4 only

The late stage of the Harappan civilization, also known as the Post-Urban or Late Harappan period, is marked by a decline in the grand urban standards of the previous era. While the major cities were abandoned, the population continued to live in smaller, regional settlements in areas like Gujarat and Western Uttar Pradesh. This phase is characterized by a loss of standardized urban features and a return to localized traditions. It represents a process of de-urbanization and regionalization rather than a complete break with the past.

171. (D) caches of distinctive copper tools and artifacts.

This archaeological phenomenon is identified by the discovery of numerous caches containing specialized metal artifacts. Found primarily within the fertile plains of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab in northern India, these hoards consist of various copper objects, including heavy axes, harpoons, and unique anthropomorphic figures. These finds represent the specialized metallurgical traditions of settled farming communities that lived in the region during the second millennium before the common era. They are distinct from Harappan metalwork and

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recognized for its stable agricultural villages and its highly artistic and distinctive painted pottery. Its success in utilizing the rich natural resources of the Narmada system allowed it to become one of the most extensive and enduring agrarian societies of its time.

159. (A) Deccan region

The semi-arid plateaus and river valleys of the Deccan region, primarily in modern-day Maharashtra, were home to a sequence of important Chalcolithic traditions. The Savalda, Malwa, and Jorwe cultures represent the successive stages of settled agricultural and metal-using communities in this area. These sub-traditions shared common traits like the use of copper and stone tools and a reliance on dry farming and livestock. Together, they trace the long-term expansion and development of settled village life across the central and southern parts of the subcontinent.

160. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

A hallmark of Harappan urban planning is the division of many cities into two main parts. The citadel, often built on a raised platform, typically contained significant public buildings and was fortified. The lower town consisted of residential areas and workshops. This bipartite plan is widely interpreted as a reflection of a social and administrative hierarchy. It suggests that the ruling elites or administrators occupied the more prominent citadel, while the majority of the population lived and worked in the larger lower town.

161. (B) Regional village cultures to an integrated urban system.

The peak of the Indus Civilization was marked by the development of a unified urban lifestyle that transcended local boundaries. This urban cultural ethos represents the transition from independent regional village traditions to a highly integrated and standardized system. It involved the adoption of a common script, a uniform system of weights and measures, and sophisticated town planning. This process allowed the Harappans to create a massive and coordinated civilization that maintained a consistent material culture across a vast and diverse geographic territory.

162. (A) diverse range of crops including wheat, barley, and pulses.

The Harappan civilization was supported by a robust and diverse agricultural system. Farmers grew a wide range of crops, including various types of wheat and barley, which were the primary staples. They also cultivated pulses, oilseeds, and cotton. This successful food production was based on effective irrigation and advanced farming techniques. By producing a consistent surplus, these rural communities were able to sustain the large, non-agricultural populations living in the urban centers, providing the necessary foundation for the civilization's social and economic complexity.

163. (C) evidence of horse bones.

Surkotada is a fortified archaeological site located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, known for its unique two-part division. It has gained international scientific attention because excavations there yielded animal bones that some researchers have identified as belonging to the horse. This is significant because evidence of the horse is generally lacking in the mature urban levels of other Indus sites. While this identification remains a subject of intense academic debate, it makes Surkotada a critical location for discussing the history of fauna in ancient South Asia.

164. (D) shift in settlement patterns, possibly due to the drying of the river.

The period following the urban decline in the Ghaggar-Saraswati region is characterized by a significant transformation in the human landscape. As the large, standardized cities were abandoned, the population moved into smaller and less organized settlements. This shift in settlement patterns was likely driven by environmental changes, such as the drying of the river system, which made the previous urban centers unsustainable. This post-urban phase represents a transition toward a more decentralized and rural way of life, with a decline in material prosperity and standardization.

165. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Understanding the protohistory of India requires matching cultural phases with their

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Rangpur is an important archaeological site in Gujarat that provides a long-term record of the Harappan cultural tradition. Excavations have revealed a continuous sequence of occupation that begins during the mature urban phase and extends through the subsequent late or post-urban period. This archaeological record is critical for understanding how the civilization transformed over time, showing a gradual shift toward smaller, less standardized regional settlements and new ceramic styles. It serves as a key location for studying the process of de-urbanization and cultural adaptation in western India.

179. (C) Show a strong cultural affinity with the core region of Sindh.

Archaeologists use this term for sites in Gujarat that exhibit a material culture identical to the standardized urban forms found in the Indus heartland of Sindh. These settlements feature the classic black-on-red pottery, uniform bricks, and specific weights and seals that define the mature urban phase. The term distinguishes these standardized urban outposts from more localized or regional variants like the Sorath Harappan. It highlights the direct expansion of the classical Indus urban system into the diverse coastal and inland landscapes of western India.

180. (B) 2 and 3 only

The Harappan civilization occupied a massive geographic area, spanning northwestern India and most of modern Pakistan. Archaeological research has proven that its settlements extended far beyond the Indus Valley, reaching into modern states like Gujarat, Haryana, and the western parts of Uttar Pradesh. While the western cities declined first, many eastern and southern regions continued to host Harappan communities during the late or post-urban phase. This vast and diverse distribution highlights the civilization's success in adapting to different environments and maintaining a presence across the subcontinent.

181. (C) Subsistence agriculture and stock-raising.

The Chalcolithic traditions of central and southern India, such as the Malwa and Jorwe cultures, were fundamentally agrarian societies. Their survival and growth were based on a stable subsistence strategy that combined agriculture with stock-raising. They cultivated a variety of crops and raised livestock like cattle, sheep, and goats to support their village populations. This farming-based economy allowed them to colonize and thrive in the fertile river valleys and plateaus of the Narmada and the Deccan, establishing the foundation for settled life in those regions.

182. (B) Harappans used metal currency for all trade transactions.

The Harappan civilization was a major commercial power with a sophisticated and integrated trade network. While they engaged in robust internal and international trade using a standardized system of weights and measures, their economy was not monetized. There is no archaeological evidence of metal coins or currency. Instead, trade was likely conducted through a complex barter system or the exchange of specific valued goods. This highlights their ability to manage a massive and successful economic system through administrative coordination and established commercial conventions rather than a monetary system.

183. (A) Steatite seals

The Harappan script is primarily preserved on small, portable objects made of steatite, which were used as seals. These items often feature a short inscription along with a depiction of an animal or a mythological scene. These seals were essential for administration, trade, and personal identification, serving as a way to mark property or authorize transactions. While symbols are also found on pottery and small tablets, the thousands of recovered seals provide the largest and most significant corpus for studying this ancient and still undeciphered writing system.

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184. (A) successful transition to the Iron Age

Scholars have proposed several theories to explain the decline of South Asia's first urban civilization. These include environmental catastrophes like major floods or climate change, foreign invasions, and gradual internal systemic collapse. However, the idea that the civilization simply made a successful transition into the Iron Age is not supported by evidence. The move from the urban Harappan phase to the subsequent Iron Age involved a significant period of de-

farming and metal-using communities in the area. Identified by its unique painted pottery, this culture laid the foundation for the subsequent arrival of more widespread traditions like the Malwa and Jorwe. Its early presence underscores the long history of settled agricultural life in the central Indian landscape.

237. (C) city centers and the surrounding agricultural hinterland.

The sophisticated Harappan urban system was supported by a specialized economic relationship between different types of settlements. This urban-rural dichotomy refers to the functional specialization that existed between the large city centers and their surrounding agricultural hinterlands. Rural communities focused on producing food and raw materials, generating a surplus that was transported to support the non-farming population in the cities. This economic flow allowed urban dwellers to work as specialized administrators, priests, and artisans, enabling the maintenance of the complex infrastructure and trade networks that defined the civilization.

238. (D) advanced town planning and drainage systems.

A defining hallmark of the Harappan civilization is its extraordinary commitment to advanced town planning and civic amenities. Their urban centers were meticulously laid out with a grid system of streets and featured a highly sophisticated, covered drainage network that connected individual houses to main sewer lines. This focus on public hygiene and orderly urban living was unparalleled in the ancient world. Such systematic planning indicates a powerful administrative authority and a high value placed on the welfare and organization of the city's inhabitants across the vast civilization.

239. (A) Haryana

Rakhigarhi is one of the largest and most significant cities of the Indus Civilization, representing a major center of urban life in the eastern part of its territory. It is located in the Hisar district of the modern-day state of Haryana. Excavations at this massive site have provided extensive evidence of sophisticated town planning, specialized craft production, and long-distance trade. Its strategic position along the once-fertile Ghaggar-Hakra river system highlights the importance of this region in the overall development and demographic growth of the Harappan civilization.

240. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The period following the decline of the grand Indus cities is characterized by a significant transformation in the human landscape. This Post-Urban phase represents a process of de-urbanization where the previously integrated urban system broke down into smaller, regional traditions. While the major cities were abandoned, the population remained in the subcontinent, carrying on many Harappan cultural elements in a new form. This transition shows the resilience of the people as they adapted to a more decentralized and rural lifestyle, retaining some older traditions within a new social context.

241. (B) Emergence of Harappan urbanism

The roots of South Asia's first urban civilization are found in the development of diverse regional traditions across the northern and northwestern plains. During this early, formative period, localized cultures developed the agricultural techniques, social organization, and craft skills that provided the essential background for urbanization. Over time, these regional traditions coalesced into the integrated and standardized system that defines the Mature Harappan phase. Studying this evolutionary process is fundamental for understanding how the civilization grew from its formative regional roots into a massive and coordinated urban society.

242. (A) Steatite seals

The Harappan script is primarily found on thousands of small steatite seals recovered from archaeological sites across the civilization. These portable objects were essential for administration, trade, and personal identification, featuring short inscriptions along with naturalistic or mythological symbols. While symbols are also found on pottery and small tablets, the seals provide the most significant corpus for studying this ancient and still undeciphered writing system. Their widespread use reflects the sophisticated level of economic and administrative integration

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lacked a writing system, archaeologists rely on distinctive pottery styles and settlement layouts to understand their way of life. By studying how their villages were organized and the techniques used in their ceramics and metalwork, researchers can trace the expansion and development of settled farming communities across the plateaus and river valleys of central and southern India.

192. (B) Series of independent city-states or a unified state

A major academic inquiry regarding the Indus Civilization centers on how it was governed. While the high degree of material uniformity suggests a strong administrative mechanism, the lack of explicit royal portraits or palaces makes it difficult to determine the exact nature of their political structure. Researchers debate whether the civilization consisted of a series of independent city-states that shared a common culture or if it was a single, unified state with a central authority. This question is fundamental for understanding the civilization's extraordinary coordination and stability.

193. (B) Regional variations in urban layout.

While many major Harappan cities feature a bipartite plan with a citadel and a lower town, this layout was not a universal rule. Excavations at various settlements have revealed significant regional variations in urban design. Some sites lack a separate citadel, while others feature a three-part division or different fortification patterns. These differences suggest that urban planning was adapted to local environmental needs, social structures, or functional requirements. This variety highlights the diversity of urban life and the flexibility of the Harappan administrative system across its vast territory.

194. (A) survival of Harappan traditions in a transformed, rural context.

The end of the Indus urban phase led to a period of transformation where Harappan traditions continued in a new form. This Post-Urban phase shows that while the grand, standardized cities were abandoned, the underlying cultural elements persisted within a transformed, rural context. People lived in smaller settlements and adopted regional styles of pottery and architecture. This shift indicates a process of de-urbanization and survival, proving that the civilization did not simply vanish but evolved to meet the challenges of a new and more decentralized historical era.

195. (C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only

Harappan religious life is inferred from numerous artifacts found throughout the urban centers. The 'Pashupati' seal is widely considered evidence of a male deity, while terracotta figurines suggest a focus on fertility and a mother goddess. Additionally, the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro is believed to have served a ritual purpose. However, there is no evidence that this religion was identical to the later Vedic system. While they shared some nature-centric elements, the specific practices of the Harappans represent a distinct and complex spiritual tradition within South Asia.

196. (D) Buff ware with paintings in red.

The Kayatha culture is distinguished by its unique and highly advanced ceramic industry. Its pottery repertoire features a sturdy, chocolate-slipped ware that is often decorated with incised patterns. Another important marker of this culture is the production of a buff-colored ware which is finished with paintings in a vibrant red. These specialized artifacts reflect the high level of craft skill and artistic expression among the early Chalcolithic communities of central India. Such distinct pottery serves as a vital identifier for archaeologists to differentiate this early tradition.

197. (C) Jorwe Culture - Deccan Region

Connecting protohistoric cultures to their primary geographic regions is essential for historical reconstruction. The Jorwe culture represents a significant and widespread Chalcolithic development specifically located within the Deccan region of Maharashtra. Other traditions occupied different zones: the Ahar culture was in Rajasthan, and the Malwa culture was primarily centered in the Narmada Valley of central India. Identifying these regional associations allows archaeologists to trace the independent development and interaction of various farming and metal-using societies that flourished across the diverse landscapes of the ancient subcontinent.

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urbanization and a loss of many previous cultural traits, representing a complex transformation rather than a smooth progression.

185. (C) A is true but R is false.

The Ahar or Banas culture is recognized as a distinct and independent Chalcolithic tradition of southern Rajasthan. While it was contemporary with some Harappan and Deccan cultures, it maintained its own unique material remains. For example, its characteristic black-and-red ware pottery is decorated in a style that is different from the ceramics found in the Jorwe culture of the Deccan. These differences in craft traditions and geographic focus highlight the regional diversity of protohistoric India, where various complex societies developed their own unique cultural identities and economies.

186. (A) Malwa culture

The archaeology of the Narmada River valley is primarily defined by the remains of the Malwa culture. This significant Chalcolithic tradition flourished throughout the fertile plains and plateaus of central India, establishing a stable network of agricultural villages. Identified by its highly artistic and distinctive painted pottery, the Malwa culture represents a peak of settled village life in the region. Its successful adaptation to the Narmada system allowed it to become the dominant and most extensive cultural presence in that geographic area during the second millennium before the common era.

187. (C) Naturalism and craftsmanship.

The artistic output of the Harappan civilization is celebrated for its miniature scale and extraordinary attention to detail. Instead of monumental monuments, their skill is best seen in the naturalistic carving of steatite seals and the realistic modeling of copper and terracotta figurines. These objects often depict animals and human figures with a high degree of craftsmanship and lifelike quality. This focus on realistic, naturalistic art reflects a sophisticated aesthetic sense and a deep appreciation for the physical world, setting their work apart in the ancient world.

188. (B) process of de-urbanization and regional diversification.

The period following the decline of the major Indus urban centers is best understood as a process of transformation. During this phase, known as the Post-Urban or Late Harappan period, the previous integrated urban system broke down into smaller, regional traditions. There was a noticeable decline in standardized features like large-scale town planning, uniform weights, and massive public buildings. This de-urbanization involved a shift toward smaller, rural settlements where the population adapted their culture to new, more decentralized economic and environmental conditions across several different regions.

189. (C) Indo-Gangetic Divide and Upper Gangetic Valley

The Ochre Coloured Pottery is a unique ceramic tradition found in a specific geographic and geological context in northern India. It is primarily recovered from archaeological sites located within the Indo-Gangetic Divide and the Upper Gangetic Valley. This region, characterized by fertile river plains, supported the farming and metal-using communities that produced this pottery and the associated Copper Hoards. The distinctive weathering of the pottery is often linked to its preservation in the waterlogged soil of these river systems, serving as a primary marker for the culture.

190. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

Mapping Harappan and associated protohistoric sites requires connecting them to their specific geographic regions. Rojdi is an important site located in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. Banawali is a major urban center found in the state of Haryana. Mohenjodaro, one of the civilization's largest cities, is situated in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Kalibangan, famous for its ritual altars and early ploughed field, is located in the northern state of Rajasthan. Identifying these locations is essential for understanding the civilization's vast and diverse territory.

191. (A) Distinctive pottery styles and settlement patterns

The Chalcolithic traditions of the Deccan, such as the Savalda, Malwa, and Jorwe cultures, are primarily reconstructed through the analysis of their material remains. Because these societies

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The protohistoric sequence of the Deccan region reached its peak with the emergence of a widespread and significant cultural tradition. The Jorwe culture is recognized as the latest and most extensive Chalcolithic phase found throughout the plateaus of Maharashtra. These farming communities established a dense network of well-organized villages and developed a resilient economy based on dry farming and livestock. Its wide geographic footprint and stable material culture represent the successful culmination of settled village life in the region during the second millennium before the common era.

205. (A) 1, 2 and 3 only

The Jorwe culture was a major Chalcolithic development that flourished across the semi-arid plateaus of the Deccan region. It is recognized for its stable agricultural villages and a distinctive ceramic repertoire. Its pottery is typically a matt-surfaced red ware, often decorated with black geometric designs. Among the most characteristic vessel shapes are spouted jars and carinated bowls. While these communities were complex and well-organized, they were fundamentally rural and did not develop the large-scale planned cities, monumental architecture, or writing system that characterized the true Harappan urban phase.

206. (C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

A defining characteristic of the Harappan civilization is the remarkable uniformity seen in its material culture across a vast territory. Standardized bricks, weights, and pottery styles were used from the mountains of the north to the coastal plains of the west. However, this integrated urban ethos did not completely erase regional variations. Archaeological evidence from areas like Gujarat shows that localized ceramic traditions continued to exist alongside the standardized Indus forms. This duality highlights a complex society that maintained a shared urban framework while allowing for regional adaptations and identities.

207. (A) Harappa

Harappa is one of the most significant and iconic archaeological sites of the Indus Civilization, being the first city discovered by researchers. It is located in the Sahiwal district of modern-day Pakistan's Punjab province, along the banks of the Ravi River. As one of the largest urban centers of the mature phase, it provides extensive evidence of sophisticated town planning, specialized craft production, and long-distance trade. Its discovery was essential for proving the existence of an ancient and highly advanced urban civilization in South Asia.

208. (B) Villages provided agricultural surplus to support urban specialists.

The economic strength of the Harappan civilization was based on a functional relationship between different types of settlements. This urban-rural dichotomy facilitated a diverse and specialized social structure. Rural villages focused on agricultural production, generating a surplus of food and raw materials. This surplus was then transported to urban centers to support the non-farming population, including rulers, administrators, and artisans. This economic flow allowed for the maintenance of grand urban infrastructure and the development of specialized crafts, which were the hallmarks of the sophisticated Harappan urban lifestyle.

209. (B) Seals, terracotta figurines, and specific structures like the Great Bath.

Our understanding of the spiritual life of the Harappans is based on the analysis of diverse archaeological artifacts rather than written records. A vast corpus of evidence comes from thousands of steatite seals, which depict various deities, animals, and natural symbols like the pipal tree. Additionally, numerous terracotta figurines and specific urban features, such as the Great Bath at Mohenjodaro, provide clues about their rituals and beliefs. These artifacts collectively suggest a complex religious system focused on nature, fertility, and potentially ritual purification within the urban fabric.

210. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Matching protohistoric concepts with their associated periods is essential for understanding South Asia's history. The formative stages of the Harappa culture are marked by early village farming and Chalcolithic settlements. The Mature Urban phase is defined by sophisticated town planning and the use of a script. The Post-

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and craft traditions that eventually coalesced into a more unified urban society. This transition from localized traditions to the integrated and standardized Mature Harappan phase is a central part of the story of South Asia's first massive urbanization. Studying this process allows researchers to trace how the civilization grew from its formative regional roots.

224. (B) Religious beliefs and daily life.

The artistic output of the Harappan civilization provides essential information about their culture that is not available through written records. By analyzing the naturalistic carvings on steatite seals and the realistic modeling of terracotta and metal figurines, researchers can gain valuable insights into their daily lives, hairstyles, and clothing. Furthermore, the motifs on these objects reflect their complex religious beliefs and spiritual connection to the natural world. This focus on portable art highlights the high level of craft skill and aesthetic sense possessed by urban artisans.

225. (A) 3, 1, 4, 2

The history of complex societies in South Asia followed a progression of increasing scale and regional expansion. It began with the formative Early Harappan phase, which established the foundation for the subsequent Mature Urban Harappan Civilization. Following the urban decline, other regional traditions emerged, including the OCP and Copper Hoard complex in northern India. Finally, the Jorwe culture represented a later and more widespread expansion of settled agricultural village life in the Deccan. This sequence traces the rise, peak, and transformation of protohistoric cultures across the subcontinent.

226. (A) Saurashtra

Archaeologists use this specific term to describe the regional variation of the Harappan culture found within the Saurashtra peninsula of Gujarat. The Sorath Harappan is identified by its local ceramic styles and settlement patterns, which differ from the standardized Sindhi or Classical forms found in the Indus heartland. This distinction highlights the complex process of cultural adaptation in western India, where the urban Indus ethos interacted with indigenous traditions to create a localized archaeological record. It reflects the diversity of the civilization as it expanded coastal regions.

227. (C) easternmost frontier of the Harappan cultural tradition.

Following the decline of the major urban centers in the west, there was a significant shift of the population toward the eastern river valleys. The presence of Post-Urban Harappan sites in western Uttar Pradesh marks the furthest eastern frontier of this cultural tradition. These settlements were typically smaller and lacked the previous urban scale and standardization, representing a decentralized version of the Harappan legacy. This eastern reach provides critical evidence for how the civilization transformed and adapted as it moved into the fertile plains of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

228. (D) Painted Grey Ware

The protohistoric period in India featured several distinct regional traditions defined by their technology and material culture. The Ahar, Kayatha, and Malwa cultures are all classic examples of Chalcolithic societies that used both copper and stone tools for farming and metallurgy. In contrast, the Painted Grey Ware tradition belongs to a later historical period. It is primarily associated with the transition into the Iron Age and the development of early historical kingdoms in northern India, making it technologically and chronologically distinct from the earlier Chalcolithic farming cultures.

229. (C) river valleys of Southern Rajasthan

The Ahar or Banas culture was a significant Chalcolithic tradition that found its primary geographic heartland within the river valleys of southern Rajasthan. Centered around the Banas River and its tributaries, these settlements were strategically located to exploit the fertile land for agriculture and the nearby mineral deposits for metallurgy. The people were skilled farmers and specialized copper workers who lived in established rural communities for many centuries. Their unique material remains, especially the black-and-red ware pottery, reflect their successful adaptation to this specific regional environment.

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217. (C) effective administrative or integrative mechanism.

A major challenge in Harappan studies is understanding how their vast territory was governed. While the script remains undeciphered, the high level of material uniformity seen in artifacts like bricks, weights, and seals provides a powerful clue. This consistency suggests the existence of an effective administrative or integrative mechanism that enforced these standards across many regions. Whether this was a single centralized state or a series of coordinated city-states, the level of coordination required to manage urban infrastructure and long-distance trade was exceptionally sophisticated.

218. (A) was not an end, but a transformation.

Modern archaeology emphasizes that the end of the major Indus cities was not a total end to the civilization's history but rather a significant transformation. This Post-Urban phase represents a process of de-urbanization where the previous integrated system broke down. People moved into smaller, regional settlements and adopted localized traditions. While the grand, standardized urban centers disappeared, the population remained in the subcontinent, carrying on many Harappan cultural elements in a new form. This transition shows the resilience and adaptability of the people in a changing landscape.

219. (D) discovery in similar geographical zones and archaeological contexts.

The archaeological association between the Ochre Coloured Pottery and the Copper Hoards is established through their shared stratigraphic and geographic contexts. At numerous sites in northern India, fragments of this specific ceramic type have been found in the same soil layers as caches of specialized copper implements. This consistent proximity provides strong evidence that the makers of the pottery and the creators of the metal tools belonged to the same cultural complex. Together, these artifacts represent the specialized agricultural and metallurgical traditions of the Ganga valley.

220. (B) 1, 2, and 4 only

Archaeological research has identified several key urban centers that define the mature phase of the Indus Civilization. Mohenjodaro and Harappa were two of the largest and most significant cities, showcasing sophisticated town planning and public architecture. Kalibangan is another major site, famous for its ritual altars and early ploughed field. While sites like Ahar and Jorwe are important for Indian protohistory, they represent distinct Chalcolithic traditions that were primarily rural and independent of the standardized urban systems found in the heartland of the Indus civilization.

221. (C) Malwa and Jorwe culture

Inamgaon is one of the most significant and extensively excavated archaeological sites of the Deccan region, providing a detailed record of Chalcolithic life. It served as a major settlement for several centuries, hosting successive phases of the Malwa and Jorwe cultures. The site is famous for its well-preserved houses, burial practices, and evidence of a stable agricultural economy based on irrigation and livestock. Excavations at Inamgaon have been crucial for reconstructing the social structure, craft specialization, and environmental adaptations of early farming communities in Maharashtra.

222. (D) The Ahar culture was fully urban, with a grid-plan and writing.

The Chalcolithic cultures of India were diverse regional traditions characterized by the use of both copper and stone tools. Groups like the Jorwe culture in the Deccan were primarily agricultural communities that lived in established village networks. However, they were fundamentally different from the urban Harappans. For example, the Ahar culture of Rajasthan was a rural society focused on farming and metallurgy. It lacked the defining urban features of the Indus Civilization, such as large-scale planned cities with a grid system, monumental architecture, and a writing system.

223. (A) Rise of the Harappan civilization.

The rise of the Harappan civilization was not a sudden event but the result of a long evolutionary process. In the Ghaggar-Saraswati river system, various regional cultures developed the agricultural foundations, social organization,

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Urban phase involves a process of regionalization and de-urbanization. Finally, the Copper Hoards represent a unique Chalcolithic phenomenon primarily found in the Ganga Plain. This sequence traces the rise, peak, and transformation of complex societies across the subcontinent.

211. (C) associated Copper Hoards.

The Chalcolithic period in the Ganga river system is defined by a unique set of material remains that distinguish it from other contemporary traditions. Beyond the presence of Ochre Coloured Pottery, this region is archaeologically famous for the discovery of numerous caches of specialized copper tools known as Copper Hoards. These finds, including heavy axes and harpoons, represent the specialized metallurgical skills of the farming communities that inhabited the fertile plains of northern India. These artifacts together highlight the cultural and technological diversity of the northern subcontinent's agrarian societies.

212. (D) coarse-to-medium fabric ware with a thick slip and black painted designs.

The Malwa culture is celebrated for its highly artistic and technically advanced ceramic industry. Its pottery is typically identified as a coarse-to-medium fabric ware featuring a thick slip and elaborate designs painted in black on a reddish background. These motifs often include a diverse range of animals, plants, and complex geometric patterns. This distinctive Malwa Ware reflects the sophisticated craft skills and aesthetic tastes of the farming communities that established stable and widespread villages across the Narmada Valley and central Indian plateaus during the Chalcolithic period.

213. (C) continuous cultural development with changes over time.

The archaeological sequence of the Deccan region reveals a history of continuous cultural evolution among early agricultural communities. Over many centuries, settlements transitioned through several distinct phases, moving from the Savalda culture to the Malwa and eventually the Jorwe culture. This progression reflects the gradual expansion and adaptation of settled village life across the plateaus of Maharashtra. By studying these successive stages, archaeologists can trace how these societies developed more complex economic practices and regional identities, establishing a long-lasting and resilient foundation for agrarian life in central India.

214. (B) The Harappa Culture

Historians use this classification for societies like the Harappan because they existed during a transition where literacy was present but its records remain silent. While the civilization left behind thousands of inscriptions on seals and pottery, the script has not yet been deciphered. This prevents researchers from reading their names, stories, or specific historical records. Consequently, our entire understanding of their culture, social structure, and political organization must be built through the careful analysis of physical artifacts and archaeological remains rather than written historical texts.

215. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Chalcolithic traditions of India, such as the Ahar and Malwa cultures, were essentially rural societies focused on farming and specialized metallurgy. They lived in established village networks and developed sophisticated craft traditions. However, they were fundamentally different from the Harappan civilization because they did not build massive, planned urban centers with a grid system of streets and advanced drainage. Furthermore, they lacked the monumental public architecture and the standardized writing system that were the defining hallmarks of the sophisticated urban lifestyle found in the Indus heartland.

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216. (A) Brahmaputra Valley

The Harappan civilization was one of the most geographically extensive cultures of the ancient world, spanning northwestern India and most of modern Pakistan. Its settlements were located in diverse environments, reaching as far south as the coastal plains of Gujarat and as far east as the river valleys of Haryana. However, archaeological surveys have not found any evidence of mature urban Harappan settlements within the Brahmaputra Valley of eastern India. The civilization's primary territory was focused on the Indus, Ghaggar-Hakra, and surrounding river systems of the west.

230. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Connecting Chalcolithic traditions to their respective regions is vital for reconstructing South Asia's early history. The Ahar culture is rooted in the river valleys of southern Rajasthan, while the Malwa culture flourished throughout the Narmada Valley and central Indian plateaus. The Jorwe culture represents a significant agricultural expansion specifically in the Deccan region of Maharashtra. Finally, the Kayatha culture is an early tradition found in the Chambal Valley of Madhya Pradesh. Identifying these associations allows archaeologists to trace the independent development of regional farming communities across the subcontinent.

231. (D) Dry farming, stock raising, and fishing

The Jorwe culture was perfectly adapted to the semi-arid landscape of the Deccan plateau. Its subsistence strategy was based on a resilient combination of economic activities designed to meet the challenges of the regional environment. These farming communities practiced dry farming, focusing on drought-resistant crops, and raised livestock to support their village populations. They also supplemented their diet by exploiting local rivers for fish. This balanced approach allowed the Jorwe people to establish a dense and long-lasting network of agricultural villages across the modern state of Maharashtra.

232. (A) undeciphered script and lack of explicit royal iconography

One of the most significant obstacles to understanding the social and political life of the Harappans is the silence of their writing system. Because the script remains undeciphered, researchers cannot read their laws, names of rulers, or historical accounts. Furthermore, the civilization lacks explicit royal iconography, such as statues or portraits of kings, found in other contemporary societies. Consequently, archaeologists must reconstruct their socio-political organization through the indirect analysis of urban layout, standardized materials, and the distribution of prestigious goods, which leaves many questions open.

233. (C) complex process involving factors like climate and economics.

Modern scientific perspectives on the end of South Asia's first urban civilization emphasize that no single catastrophic event can explain its decline. Instead, evidence points toward a complex and gradual process involving multiple contributing factors. These include environmental shifts like changing river courses and climate instability, alongside potential social and economic disruptions. These combined pressures led to a period of de-urbanization where people moved into smaller, regional settlements. This nuanced view acknowledges the resilience of the population as they adapted to a new and more decentralized historical era.

234. (A) characterized by the use of copper and stone.

This term describes a specific technological stage in human development where societies began to supplement their stone tools with metal. A Chalcolithic culture is characterized by the use of both copper and stone for making implements and weapons. This transition allowed for new advancements in craft and specialized manufacturing while still relying on established stone technology for daily tasks. These communities were primarily settled farmers who lived in small villages, representing a significant stage of social and technological evolution before the full-scale arrival of the Bronze and Iron Ages.

235. (B) 1, 2 and 3 only

The Malwa culture was a significant Chalcolithic tradition that flourished throughout the fertile plateaus and river valleys of central India. It is specifically associated with the Narmada Valley and the surrounding region, where its settlements were strategically located to exploit the rich black cotton soil for agriculture. Identified by its highly artistic and distinctive painted pottery, known as Malwa ware, the culture represents a peak of settled village life. Its wide geographic distribution reflects the successful expansion of agrarian societies across the diverse landscapes of central India.

236. (B) Deccan region

In the history of the Deccan region, the Savalda culture is recognized as the most ancient stage of Chalcolithic development. Predominantly found in the Tapti River valley of northern Maharashtra, it represents the first major stage of settled

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198. (B) formative background of the Harappan civilization.

The emergence of settled agricultural communities across diverse regions like the Ghaggar-Saraswati system and Gujarat provided the essential foundation for urbanization. These early farming groups developed the technological skills, social organization, and craft traditions that eventually coalesced into the integrated and standardized Indus Civilization. This formative period represents the background from which the Mature Harappan phase grew. Studying these early stages allows researchers to understand how the civilization evolved through a long-term local process of increasing social and economic complexity within the northern plains and western coastal areas.

199. (D) well-established system of communication and administration.

Although the specific meaning of the Harappan script remains a mystery, its consistent use across a vast geographic area provides important clues about their society. The high degree of standardization in these symbols suggests that the civilization possessed a well-established and shared system of communication and administration. Such coordination was necessary for managing long-distance trade, keeping records, and enforcing the standardized weights and measures that were the hallmarks of their urban economy. This shared script reflects the sophisticated level of integration achieved by this ancient urban society.

200. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Lothal is widely recognized by archaeologists as a major maritime and commercial center of the Indus Civilization. This interpretation is based on its strategic location near the Gulf of Khambhat in Gujarat and the discovery of a large, brick-lined basin. This structure features inlet channels and sluice gates, which are consistent with the design of a dockyard. This engineering feat would have allowed the Harappans to manage sea-borne trade with distant regions like Mesopotamia, highlighting the city's vital role in the civilization's international and regional economic networks.

201. (C) Mesopotamia

Definitive proof of Harappan participation in long-distance maritime trade comes from the discovery of their artifacts in foreign lands. Archaeologists have recovered Indus seals and specialized beads from several sites in Mesopotamia, which was a contemporary major civilization. These finds indicate that Harappan merchants traveled across the Arabian Sea to exchange manufactured goods for exotic raw materials. This overseas contact was a vital part of the Harappan economy, fostering cross-cultural economic integration and highlighting the civilization's role as a major player in the ancient world's commercial networks.

202. (A) cultural transformation, as seen in the Jhukar culture.

The period following the decline of the grand Indus cities in the heartland was a time of significant cultural transformation. In the Sindh region, this Post-Urban phase is archaeologically identified by the emergence of the Jhukar culture. While the large, standardized urban systems were fading, people continued to live in smaller, regional settlements. These communities retained some Harappan elements but developed their own unique ceramic and architectural styles. This transition reflects a process of de-urbanization and the survival of localized traditions in a more decentralized and rural fashion.

203. (D) The river valley in which it is predominantly found.

The naming of ancient traditions often reflects their primary geographic location. The Ahar or Banas culture is named after the Banas River valley in southern Rajasthan, where a high concentration of its settlements has been discovered. This fertile region supported the stable agricultural and pastoral economy of the culture for several centuries. By focusing on this specific river system, archaeologists can better understand the environmental factors that shaped the development and longevity of this distinct Chalcolithic tradition, which flourished independently from the contemporary urban systems of the Indus Valley.

204. (B) Jorwe

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achieved by the urban Harappan society across its vast geographic territory.

243. (C) trajectory of Harappan culture and its regional characteristics.

Evidence from sites like Bagasra and Rojdi is essential for understanding the unique cultural trajectory of the Harappan civilization in Gujarat. These settlements provided detailed information about how the urban ethos was adapted to local environmental and social conditions. While maintaining a shared framework with the Indus heartland, these sites also developed their own regional characteristics and ceramic styles. Studying these locations allows archaeologists to reconstruct the complex process of regionalization and the long-term survival of the Harappan tradition in western India through various developmental phases.

244. (D) diverse regional outcomes of the process of de-urbanization.

The end of the Indus urban phase led to a diverse range of outcomes across its vast territory. As the major cities were abandoned, several regional cultures emerged in areas like Sindh, Punjab, and Gujarat. These Late Harappan traditions represent the various ways in which the population adapted to the process of de-urbanization. While they lost many of the standardized urban features of the previous era, they maintained localized versions of the Harappan legacy. These regional developments highlight the complexity and resilience of the civilization's cultural transformation.

245. (C) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only

Modern scientific research into the decline of the Indus Civilization has moved beyond simple explanations, identifying a complex interplay of multiple factors. While older theories like the Aryan invasion are still discussed, most current scholars emphasize environmental changes as primary causes. These include major shifts in the course of the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers, climate instability leading to drought, and potential tectonic activity resulting in floods. These combined pressures gradually disrupted the agricultural and urban systems, leading to the de-urbanization and transformation of the civilization's cultural life.

246. (B) Ochre Coloured Pottery

The protohistoric archaeology of the Ganga plain is identified by a unique set of material remains that distinguish it from the urban Indus tradition. This region is characterized by the presence of Ochre Coloured Pottery, a distinct ceramic type produced by early farming communities. These settlements flourished in the fertile river valleys of northern India during the second millennium before the common era. Identifying these sites through their characteristic pottery allows archaeologists to trace the development of settled agricultural life and specialized metallurgy within the diverse landscape of the Gangetic plains.

247. (D) Chambal Valley region of Madhya Pradesh

This term refers to the unique set of material remains that define one of the most ancient Chalcolithic traditions in central India. Centered in the Chambal Valley region of Madhya Pradesh, the Kayatha culture represents the first major stage of settled farming and metal use in that area. Identified by its sturdy, chocolate-slipped pottery and specialized stone tools, this culture established the foundation for subsequent agricultural expansion. Its early chronology highlights the independent development of complex farming and metal-using societies across different regions of the South Asian subcontinent.

248. (A) Malwa Culture

The Malwa culture was a significant and widespread Chalcolithic tradition that dominated the fertile plateaus and river valleys of central India. It is recognized for its stable network of agricultural villages and its highly artistic and distinctive painted pottery. This culture achieved its greatest extent within the Malwa region and the Narmada Valley, where the population exploited the rich black cotton soil for farming. Its success in these diverse environments allowed it to become the most extensive and enduring agrarian society of its time in the central Indian heartland.

249. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

The Chalcolithic traditions of the Deccan, such as the Jorwe culture, represent a significant phase

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281. (A) it exhibited significant regional variations despite its overall unity.

Although the Harappan civilization shared many common traits, it was not a perfectly monolithic culture. Archaeological evidence reveals distinct regional differences in pottery and materials, especially in areas like Gujarat. These variations suggest that the civilization was a mosaic of related but unique local traditions that adapted to their specific environments while remaining part of the broader urban system.

282. (B) the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

The term 'Sorath Harappan' refers to a specific regional variant of the culture found primarily in Saurashtra. This tradition is distinct from the classical style found in the Indus Valley core. It demonstrates how Harappan cultural traits were adapted by local communities in Gujarat, resulting in a unique archaeological assemblage that reflects the regional identity of the Saurashtra area.

283. (B) A distinct ceramic repertoire and reliance on local materials.

The Sorath Harappan variant is identified by its unique pottery types, such as convex-sided bowls and gritty red ware. Unlike the classical Indus style, this regional tradition relied more heavily on locally available raw materials. These differences in everyday objects show that local communities maintained their own technological and aesthetic preferences while still participating in the wider Harappan cultural phenomenon.

284. (A) showed a mixture of both 'Classical' and 'Sorath' traditions.

Sites such as Lothal and Dholavira acted as 'interface zones' where different cultural styles met. These locations displayed a blend of typical Indus Valley traits and local Sorath elements. This mixing suggests that these settlements were hubs of interaction and trade, where people from various regions integrated their traditions, creating a more diverse material culture compared to isolated sites.

285. (C) It involved a dynamic interaction with and adaptation of local traditions.

The presence of regional variations like the Sorath Harappan indicates that the culture's spread was not a simple case of replacement. Instead, Harappan influences interacted with existing local Chalcolithic traditions. This process led to a dynamic adaptation where universal urban traits were modified to fit local needs and resources, resulting in a complex and varied cultural landscape throughout the subcontinent.

286. (D) It was likely caused by a combination of factors rather than a single event.

Current archaeological thought suggests that the Harappan decline was not the result of a single catastrophe. Instead, a complex mix of environmental changes, economic shifts, and internal social decays likely worked together. This multi-causal approach explains the gradual transition from an urban to a rural society, as different regions faced varying challenges that eventually undermined the central urban infrastructure.

287. (C) Environmental and climatic factors.

Theories regarding the drying of major river systems like the Gagghar-Saraswati are categorized as environmental explanations. These changes would have disrupted the essential water supply needed for large-scale agriculture and urban living. Such climatic shifts are viewed as critical drivers of de-urbanization, as they forced populations to move or change their subsistence strategies in response to a deteriorating landscape.

288. (B) As a gradual process of de-urbanization and fragmentation.

The end of the Urban Harappan phase was not a sudden collapse but a slow transformation. Over time, the major cities were abandoned, and the centralized systems that supported them, like the script and standardized weights, faded away. This led to a more fragmented society where people lived in smaller rural settlements, marking a shift back to localized, agrarian lifestyles.

289. (D) being largely discredited due to a lack of evidence.

The idea that an external invasion caused the sudden fall of the Harappan civilization is no longer widely accepted. Modern research has

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a shared ideological framework that enabled the management of a large-scale, cohesive civilization.

257. (D) areas where key social and technological experiments took place.

Regions like Gujarat and the Gagghar-Saraswati basin served as vital zones for developmental changes during the Pre-Urban period. These areas acted as hubs for testing new social structures and technological methods. The progress made in these settlements, including more organized community living and improved production techniques, directly foreshadowed the complex systems and large-scale urbanization of the Mature phase.

258. (A) A growing level of socio-political integration and administration.

The use of uniform weights and standardized brick sizes across different cities reflects a powerful regulatory mechanism. Such precision and consistency suggest that a central authority or a highly organized governing elite managed resources and construction projects. This degree of standardization facilitated efficient trade, taxation, and large-scale public works, indicating advanced administrative control within the urban society.

259. (C) its coastal location, crucial for resources and trade.

Gujarat's geographical position was instrumental in the growth of the Harappan economy due to its proximity to the sea. The coastal access facilitated the procurement of diverse marine and mineral resources while enabling maritime trade links with distant regions. This strategic advantage supported economic expansion and contributed to the unique regional blend of traditions seen in Harappan settlements there.

260. (A) a gradual synthesis of regional developments into a cohesive system.

Moving from the Early to the Urban phase was a transformative process involving the merging of diverse local traditions. It was not a sudden rupture but a culmination of ongoing social and technological advancements. This synthesis created a unified urban identity characterized by shared material standards and sophisticated organization, spread effectively across the vast territory of the Indus civilization.

261. (D) systematic layout with a bipartite plan.

Major Harappan cities were renowned for their highly organized and deliberate spatial arrangements. Most significant settlements were divided into two distinct sections: a smaller, elevated western mound and a larger, lower eastern residential area. This bipartite structure highlights the systematic nature of their town planning and suggests a clear functional and social differentiation within the urban environment.

262. (B) a society with distinct social hierarchies.

The physical separation of Harappan cities into a raised 'citadel' and a 'lower town' is interpreted as a reflection of social stratification. The elevated mound likely housed administrative or elite groups, while the lower area accommodated the general population and commercial activities. This intentional spatial division indicates that the society was organized along hierarchical lines with varying levels of status.

263. (C) The grid-like pattern of streets intersecting at right angles.

Harappan urban design featured a remarkably modern grid system that governed the layout of thoroughfares. Main streets were carefully oriented along north-south and east-west axes, creating precise right-angle intersections. This level of advanced planning ensured efficient movement and organization within the city, reflecting a sophisticated understanding of urban management that was unique among contemporary civilizations of the time.

264. (D) The complex and comprehensive drainage systems.

Advanced engineering in Harappan cities is most evident in their elaborate sanitary infrastructure. Houses were connected to covered street drains designed to manage waste and water flow effectively. This focus on a comprehensive drainage network reveals a significant civic concern for public health and cleanliness, setting the Indus civilization apart from other ancient societies through its sophisticated urban hygiene.

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production
(B) Large-scale PGW pottery production
(C) A major Paleolithic tool factory
(D) An early urban centre with Harappan-style fortifications

9. Which of the following statements about the early Iron Age sites in India is incorrect?
(A) Hallur has provided evidence for an overlap of Neolithic and Iron Age phases.
(B) Malhar and Dadupur are located in the Ganga Valley.
(C) Kodumanal is a site located in the extreme north of India.
(D) The evidence from these sites challenges older theories about the timeline of iron's introduction.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the early evidence of iron in India:
1. Raja Nal-ka-tila is a key site for understanding the early Iron Age.
2. The new evidence suggests that iron use was simultaneous across the entire subcontinent.
3. Hallur and Kumaranahalli are important early Iron Age sites in Peninsular India.
4. The study of the antiquity of iron is solely based on literary texts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 1 and 4 only

11. What was the most likely immediate effect of the introduction and adoption of iron technology in early Indian societies?
(A) The complete abandonment of agriculture in favor of warfare.
(B) A significant increase in agricultural productivity and land clearance.
(C) The immediate formation of a pan-Indian empire.
(D) The decline of all regional pottery traditions.

12. An archaeologist excavating a site finds early iron implements in a layer dated much earlier than previously accepted for that region. This finding would be most significant in the context of the study of:
(A) the chronology of Northern Black Polished Ware.
(B) the antiquity of iron in India.
(C) the maritime trade routes of the Early Historic period.
(D) the typology of Megalithic burials.

13. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Cultural Trait)
P. Distinctive grey-colored pottery with black painted designs
Q. Lustrous black pottery with a mirror-like finish
R. Large stone burial monuments
S. Use of iron tools in an early North Indian context
List II: (Associated Culture)
1. Megalithic Culture
2. Painted Grey Ware Culture
3. Northern Black Polished Ware Culture
4. Harappan Culture
Codes:
(A) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

14. The Painted Grey Ware culture is primarily associated with which geographical region of India?
(A) The Krishna-Godavari delta
(B) The Thar Desert
(C) The Malabar Coast
(D) The Ganga-Yamuna doab

15. Which of the following is a characteristic trait of the Painted Grey Ware culture?
(A) It is associated with the use of fine, well-fired grey pottery often painted with geometric patterns.
(B) It was characterized by large fortified urban centers and a highly complex political structure.
(C) Its subsistence economy depended primarily on international maritime trade and commerce.
(D) The knowledge of iron metallurgy was entirely absent among the inhabitants of

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Harappan maritime trade with regions like Mesopotamia and the Gulf was driven by the need for specific resources. While the civilization was largely self-sufficient, it required external sources for various metals and stones not found within its borders. This long-distance exchange network was vital for sustaining craft industries and ensuring the availability of necessary materials for the urban economy.

274. (A) A diverse subsistence base, standardized crafts, and extensive trade networks.

The Harappan economy achieved resilience through multiple integrated strategies. It relied on a variety of agricultural and natural resources, maintained high quality through standardized production, and participated in both local and international trade. This multifaceted approach created a sophisticated and stable economic environment, allowing the civilization to thrive as a dominant urban power for several centuries in South Asia.

275. (C) It was sophisticated enough to manage long-distance maritime logistics.

Evidence of trade with Mesopotamia and Gulf civilizations demonstrates that the Harappans possessed advanced maritime and organizational capabilities. Managing overseas trade required knowledge of seasonal winds, shipbuilding, and complex logistics for transporting goods over long distances. This external connectivity highlights the outward-looking nature of their economy and their ability to successfully integrate into larger, international exchange networks of the ancient world.

276. (A) the existence of an effective centralized authority.

The pervasive uniformity in material items like standardized bricks and weights indicates the presence of a strong governing power. Maintaining such high levels of consistency across a vast territory requires organized oversight and effective enforcement of standards. This evidence supports the idea that the Harappan civilization was managed by a centralized administration capable of coordinating activities over diverse regional settlements.

277. (D) The undeciphered script and lack of clear royal monuments.

Defining the exact nature of Harappan socio-political organization is difficult because researchers cannot yet read their written records. Furthermore, the absence of obvious palaces or grand tombs makes it hard to identify specific rulers or the type of government they used. Without clear textual evidence or royal architecture, the specific details of their leadership structure remain a debate.

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278. (B) a focus on fertility, nature, and mother goddess figures.

Harappan religious beliefs are interpreted through material remains like figurines and seals. The abundance of female terracotta statues and motifs of horned figures suggests a belief system centered on natural forces and fertility. These archaeological findings indicate a spiritual life that prioritized nature worship and the veneration of deities associated with life and growth, rather than organized temple-based religions.

279. (C) Harappan religion lacked monumental temple structures.

Unlike contemporary societies in Egypt and Mesopotamia that built massive temples, Harappan religious life appears to have lacked large-scale public shrines. While their iconography was rich, rituals were likely performed in private spaces or communal areas like the Great Bath. This absence of monumental religious architecture suggests a different social role for religion compared to other early urban civilizations.

280. (D) sculptures, terracotta figurines, and intricately carved seals.

Harappan artistic skill is most clearly visible in their small-scale works. Artisans produced realistic stone and bronze sculptures, numerous terracotta figurines, and thousands of detailed steatite seals. These items often depicted animals and complex human-like figures, showcasing a high level of craftsmanship and providing important clues about the aesthetic preferences and symbolic meanings valued by the Indus Valley people.

265. (A) They were geographically widespread and meticulously planned urban centres.

Urban Harappan settlements were characterized by their vast distribution and high degree of internal organization. These cities utilized standardized materials and shared engineering principles, such as bipartite layouts and grid patterns. The presence of sophisticated civic amenities like advanced drainage systems further emphasizes that these were complex, well-managed urban environments designed to support large, socially stratified populations.

266. (B) relationship of symbiotic interdependence.

The Harappan socio-economic structure relied on a close connection between urban hubs and rural villages. Cities functioned as administrative and manufacturing centers, but they depended entirely on the countryside for food and raw materials. In return, rural areas received finished goods and organizational leadership. This mutually beneficial arrangement ensured the stability and growth of the entire civilization's complex economic network.

267. (B) Surplus-generating agriculture.

Agriculture served as the primary pillar of the Harappan economy, providing the resources necessary for urban life. Farmers cultivated various crops like wheat and cotton, producing more than required for immediate local consumption. This agricultural surplus was vital for sustaining large city populations and supporting non-farming groups, such as artisans and administrators, who managed the civilization's complex affairs.

268. (A) an agricultural system capable of producing a significant surplus.

The presence of full-time artisans, traders, and administrators in Harappan cities confirms that the food supply was abundant. Only a highly productive agrarian base could support a large population of specialists who did not produce their own food. This surplus enabled the growth of craft industries and administrative systems, which were essential for maintaining the civilization's urban complexity.

269. (C) the two sectors were functionally different but mutually dependent.

The urban-rural dichotomy in Harappan society describes a system where different areas performed specialized roles within a single economy. While cities focused on administration and manufacturing, rural settlements provided the necessary food and raw resources. This functional separation did not mean isolation; instead, both sectors were tightly integrated, relying on each other to maintain the civilization's overall prosperity.

270. (D) To provide finished goods and organizational oversight.

In the Harappan economic model, urban centers acted as the primary hubs for processing and management. They took raw materials from rural areas and transformed them into sophisticated craft products like pottery and metalware. Additionally, cities provided the administrative framework and market spaces necessary for organizing trade and distribution, ensuring the smooth functioning of the entire regional economic system.

271. (C) the presence of a centralized regulatory system.

The remarkable consistency in Harappan crafts, such as standardized weights and pottery styles, points toward an organized management structure. Such uniformity across a wide geographic expanse would be impossible without a central authority or established regulations governing production. This regulatory system ensured efficiency in trade and helped maintain a cohesive cultural identity throughout the various regions of the civilization.

272. (B) To aid in the administration of trade and management of goods.

Although the Harappan script remains undeciphered, its frequent appearance on seals suggests a practical administrative function. It was likely used to record information related to commerce, such as ownership, quantity, or the origin of traded items. This writing system facilitated the organized movement of goods, allowing officials to track and manage the complex economic transactions of the time.

273. (D) acquiring essential raw materials not available locally.

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failed to find convincing archaeological proof of a large-scale violent conquest. Instead, scholars now focus on more gradual internal and environmental reasons for the transition, viewing the invasion theory as an outdated explanation for the de-urbanization process.

290. (A) The use of the Harappan script and standardized weights.

As the Harappan civilization entered its de-urbanization phase, several key administrative markers vanished. The standardized weights and measures, which were essential for regulated trade, and the complex writing system were no longer used. The disappearance of these features indicates a breakdown in the centralized control and long-distance connectivity that had previously defined the sophisticated urban period of the civilization.

291. (C) transformation, localization, and ruralization.

The Post-Urban phase of the Harappan civilization represents a major shift in how people lived. Society moved away from large, unified cities toward smaller, scattered rural villages. This period was marked by the breakdown of central authority, leading to the rise of localized traditions and a greater focus on local subsistence rather than the expansive trade networks of the previous era.

292. (A) The Post-Urban phase lacked features like the script and large cities.

A major distinction between the phases is the absence of complex urban markers in the Post-Urban period. During this later time, the use of the script, seals, and standardized weights stopped, and the grand urban planning of the cities was lost. While some cultural elements continued, the overarching infrastructure that supported large-scale city life and international trade completely disappeared.

293. (D) smaller and more numerous rural settlements.

Following the decline of major urban centers, there was a noticeable change in where people lived. Instead of concentrating in massive cities like Mohenjodaro, populations dispersed into a larger number of smaller rural sites. this shift reflects a move toward a more localized and agricultural way of life, where community organization was centered on a smaller, more manageable village scale.

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294. (B) developed new local traditions while retaining some Harappan elements.

In regions such as Punjab and Haryana, the Post-Urban period saw the emergence of fresh local cultural expressions. These communities did not completely abandon their past; they kept some Harappan pottery styles and farming methods. However, these were blended with new local developments, resulting in a series of distinct regional cultures that evolved independently after the collapse of the urban system.

295. (C) the unified Harappan culture broke down into distinct regional cultures.

Localization during the Post-Urban phase refers to the fragmentation of the previously unified Harappan identity. As central administration and long-distance trade failed, different regions began to develop their own unique material traits and social systems. This process transformed the once-cohesive civilization into a variety of separate, localized Chalcolithic cultures, each adapting differently to their specific environmental and social conditions.

296. (D) The Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

The archaeological findings known as Copper Hoards and Ochre Coloured Pottery are most frequently discovered in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab region. These unique assemblages represent a distinct Chalcolithic tradition that existed alongside or after the Harappan culture. The specific types of copper tools and pottery styles found there highlight the regional diversity of early metallurgy and settlement within the Indian subcontinent.

297. (A) the smelting of local copper ore.

The Banas/Ahar culture of southern Rajasthan was characterized by an economy that made use of the region's natural resources. In addition to farming and animal husbandry, these people were skilled in smelting copper from nearby mines. This metallurgical activity, along with their unique black-and-red ware pottery, defines their distinct regional identity within the broader context of ancient Indian Chalcolithic societies.

298. (B) The Malwa culture.

The Malwa culture is recognized for its extensive geographical reach across Central India, particularly in the Narmada valley. It is especially noted for its high-quality black-on-red pottery, which featured intricate and beautiful designs. This widespread distribution and artistic consistency suggest that the Malwa people were part of a successful and influential regional network during the post-Harappan Chalcolithic period.

299. (B) Black-on-red painted pottery with matte surfaces and spouted vessels.

The Jorwe culture, located in the Deccan region, is distinguished by its specific pottery styles. This includes painted black-on-red vessels with a unique matte finish and characteristic spouted shapes. Alongside these artistic traits, the culture is known for its distinct village layouts and specific burial traditions, marking it as a well-defined and important Chalcolithic society in southern and western India.

300. (A) distinct regional cultures with unique material traits existed outside the Harappan zone.

By highlighting various traditions like the Kayatha, Malwa, and Jorwe cultures, the passage demonstrates the rich cultural diversity of ancient India. These examples show that the subcontinent was home to many different Chalcolithic groups, each with its own technology, art, and economic strategies. This variety illustrates that the Harappan civilization was only one part of a larger, complex mosaic of cultures.

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CHAPTER 06

The Iron Age & Growth of New Urban Centres

1. Which of the following sites has provided new evidence regarding the antiquity of iron in India?
(A) Harappa
(B) Malhar
(C) Mohenjo-Daro
(D) Kalibangan

2. The term 'Iron Age' in the Indian context primarily signifies the period characterized by the:
(A) first appearance and widespread adoption of iron for tools and weapons.
(B) exclusive use of iron tools, replacing all other materials.
(C) construction of large stone monuments known as Megaliths only.
(D) dominance of the Northern Black Polished Ware pottery.

3. Which statement correctly describes the significance of the new evidence from sites like Dadupur and Raja Nal-ka-tila?
(A) It proves that iron was first used in Peninsular India.
(B) It confirms that iron technology was imported from the Roman Empire.
(C) It suggests an earlier date for the beginning of the Iron Age in India than previously thought.
(D) It links the Indian Iron Age exclusively to the Painted Grey Ware culture.

4. All of the following are sites known for providing evidence on the antiquity of iron in India EXCEPT:
(A) Hallur
(B) Kumaranahalli
(C) Kodumanal
(D) Sravasti

5. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The sites of Hallur and Kumaranahalli are located in Peninsular India and are significant for the study of the early Iron Age.
Statement II : The evidence from these sites primarily relates to the mature Harappan period, not the Iron Age.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

6. The early stages of the Iron Age in India are best understood as a period of:
(A) uniform technological development across the subcontinent.
(B) gradual transition and regional variation in the adoption of iron technology.
(C) complete societal collapse following the decline of the Bronze Age cultures.
(D) political unification under a single iron-wielding empire.

7. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The study of sites like Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila is crucial for understanding the Iron Age in India.
Reason (R) : These sites have yielded new evidence that pushes back the antiquity of iron in the subcontinent.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

8. The site of Kodumanal is particularly noted for its connection to which aspect of the Iron Age?
(A) Early evidence of iron smelting and craft

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in the history of peninsular India. These societies were primarily agricultural communities that lived in established village networks and used both copper and stone tools. Most of these cultures were post-Harappan in their primary development, representing the widespread expansion of settled farming and livestock raising across the semi-arid plateaus of Maharashtra. By developing resilient economic practices, they established a foundation of agrarian life that would persist and evolve over many centuries.

250. (A) OCP Culture - Upper Ganga Plain

Connecting protohistoric cultures to their primary geographic locations is essential for accurate historical reconstruction. The Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) culture is specifically associated with the Upper Ganga Plain, where its farming and metal-using communities flourished. Other regional traditions occupied different zones: the Ahar culture was in Rajasthan, and the Malwa culture was centered in central India. Identifying these associations allows archaeologists to trace the independent development and interaction of various complex societies that established stable village life across the diverse landscapes of the ancient Indian subcontinent.

251. (B) The transition from nomadic lifestyles to settled village farming communities.

The early phase of the Harappan culture marks a shift from mobile subsistence patterns to established agricultural lifestyles. This formative period, within a Chalcolithic context, facilitated the growth of rural communities across North-Western India. These settlements laid the essential economic and technological foundations for the subsequent emergence of complex, stratified urban societies within the ancient Indus valley.

252. (A) characterized by the beginning of distinct but interconnected regional cultures.

Early Chalcolithic settlements in the subcontinent were not uniform but showcased unique regional material traits. Despite these individual characteristics, the communities remained linked through emerging trade routes and communication networks. This interconnectedness allowed for the exchange of ideas and goods, fostering a shared cultural environment that eventually contributed to the sophisticated synthesis of the mature urban civilization.

253. (C) The urban civilization evolved directly and gradually from the foundation laid by these villages.

The development of the Harappan urban centres resulted from a long, complex process of cultural evolution rather than external imposition. Early village farming communities provided the necessary demographic base and social innovations required for city life. This gradual progression demonstrates that urbanism was an indigenous growth, rooted in the technological refinements and economic surplus achieved during the preceding phases.

254. (D) the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, and initial craft production.

Subsequent urbanization in the Indus region was supported by a stable and productive economic system. The combination of farming, livestock rearing, and early manufacturing techniques provided a surplus that could sustain growing populations. This foundational economic diversity allowed for social stratification and the support of specialists, which were essential requirements for the functioning of large, organized Harappan cities.

255. (C) emerged from a synthesis of contributions from various regional communities.

Harappan culture was a complex product of diverse regional traditions interacting over time. Rather than a single group imposing its ways, various communities contributed their own material and social innovations. This multi-linear progression suggests that different areas followed unique developmental paths, eventually merging into the cohesive cultural ethos that defined the peak of the Indus Valley Civilization.

256. (B) The standardization of various elements of material culture.

A defining feature of the Urban Harappan phase was the implementation of uniform standards across vast regions. This consistency is evident in pottery designs, brick dimensions, and weighing systems used in various settlements. Such widespread uniformity indicates a high level of administrative integration and potentially

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this culture.

16. Arrange the following cultural periods in their correct chronological sequence, from earliest to latest:
1. Northern Black Polished Ware Culture
2. Painted Grey Ware Culture
3. Mature Harappan Culture
4. Megalithic Culture in Peninsular India (Early Phase)

(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

17. The chronology of the Painted Grey Ware culture refers to:
(A) the list of kings who ruled during this period.
(B) the specific time frame in which this culture flourished.
(C) the geographical area where its sites are found.
(D) the typological classification of its pottery.

18. The term Painted Grey Ware itself best describes which aspect of the culture?
(A) Its most distinctive ceramic tradition
(B) Its primary economic activity
(C) Its political structure
(D) Its religious beliefs

19. Consider the following statements about the Painted Grey Ware culture:
1. It is primarily found in Peninsular India.
2. The pottery is wheel-made, thin-walled, and well-fired.
3. Common painted motifs include simple geometric patterns like dots and lines.
4. It is considered a post-Harappan and pre-NBPW cultural phase in its core area.
5. Iron artefacts are commonly found at PGW sites.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

20. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The extent of the Painted Grey Ware culture is limited to the upper Ganga basin and adjoining regions.
Statement II : The characteristic traits of PGW culture include settled agricultural life and the use of iron.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

21. Which statement regarding the chronology of the PGW culture is incorrect?
(A) It generally precedes the Northern Black Polished Ware culture.
(B) Its time frame falls within the Indian Iron Age.
(C) It is considered contemporary with the Roman Republic.
(D) It follows the Late Harappan phase in many areas.

22. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Northern Black Polished Ware is often considered a deluxe or luxury ware of its time.
Reason (R) : Its highly lustrous, mirror-like finish and fine fabric suggest it was a high-value item, not for everyday use by all.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

23. The NBPW culture is chronologically associated with the emergence of:
(A) the first agricultural communities.
(B) the Harappan civilization.
(C) the Neolithic-Chalcolithic transition.
(D) the first large cities and territorial states (Mahajanapadas).

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(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

41. Identify the correctly matched pair of a Megalithic term and its description.
(A) Menhir - A burial chamber made of stone slabs.
(B) Dolmen - A single upright stone monolith used as a memorial.
(C) Cist - A box-like grave made of stone slabs, often buried underground.
(D) Port-hole - The main capstone covering a dolmen.

42. If an excavation in the Deccan plateau reveals a pit grave containing a human skeleton, along with iron swords, arrowheads, and distinctive black-and-red pottery, it is most likely to be identified as a site belonging to the:
(A) Megalithic culture.
(B) Painted Grey Ware culture.
(C) Mature Harappan culture.
(D) Neolithic culture.

43. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Feature)
P. Chronological Context
Q. Typology
R. Cultural Artefacts
S. Geographical Spread
List II: (Description)
1. Classification of tomb types (e.g., Cist, Dolmen)
2. Iron daggers, Black and Red Ware
3. Distribution across Peninsular India and beyond
4. Time period, often overlapping with the Early Historic
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

44. Which ceramic ware is most characteristically associated with the Megalithic burials of Peninsular India?
(A) Painted Grey Ware
(B) Black and Red Ware
(C) Northern Black Polished Ware
(D) Ochre Coloured Pottery

45. Which statement about the Megalithic culture is incorrect?
(A) The culture has a wide geographical spread.
(B) Its diverse burial typologies.
(C) Its chronology is well-established and uniform across all regions.
(D) Iron objects are key cultural artefacts of this tradition.

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46. Consider the following factors contributing to the emergence of urban centres in the Ganga Valley:
1. Increased agricultural surplus due to iron technology.
2. Growth of craft specialization.
3. Expansion of inland and maritime trade networks.
4. Decline in the use of any form of currency.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

47. The emergence of Urban centres during the Early Historic period refers to the:
(A) growth of large, densely populated settlements with non-agrarian functions.
(B) universal establishment of democratic governments in all settlements.
(C) first appearance of small, self-sufficient farming villages.
(D) complete disappearance of rural settlements.

48. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Early Historic period witnessed an expansion of trade and the development of trade routes.

Reason (R) : The emergence of new urban centres created demand for various goods, and a surplus from agricultural production made trade possible.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct

(D) extensive use of coinage.

33. In the study of the Megalithic tradition, the term 'typology' refers to the:
(A) study of the geographical spread of Megalithic sites.
(B) classification of different types of Megalithic burials and monuments.
(C) analysis of skeletal remains from Megalithic graves.
(D) chronological dating of the Megalithic period.

34. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India is considered a part of the Iron Age.
Reason (R) : Megalithic burials consistently yield a rich variety of iron artefacts, such as tools and weapons.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

35. Which of the following is a correct statement about the geographical spread of the Megalithic culture?
(A) It was strictly confined to the state of Tamil Nadu.
(B) Megalithic monuments are only found in the Ganga Valley.
(C) It is found extensively across Peninsular India and has parallels in other parts of the world.
(D) This culture is a phenomenon exclusive to the Indian subcontinent.

36. Common cultural artefacts found in Megalithic burials include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Iron daggers and spears
(B) Black and Red Ware pottery
(C) Beads of semi-precious stones
(D) Terracotta seals with Harappan script

37. Arrange the following Megalithic tomb types in a logical classification sequence from simple to more complex structures:
1. Cist burial with port-hole
2. Menhir (monolith)
3. Dolmenoid cist
4. Pit burial
(A) 2, 4, 3, 1
(B) 4, 2, 1, 3
(C) 1, 3, 4, 2
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

38. The term authors of the Megalithic tradition refers to the scholarly debate concerning the:
(A) specific individuals who wrote texts about the Megaliths.
(B) identity and origins of the people who built these monuments.
(C) first archaeologists who discovered these sites.
(D) artisans who crafted the grave goods.

39. Consider the following statements about the Peninsular Indian Megaliths:
1. They are primarily habitational sites, not burials.
2. The chronological context places them firmly within the Bronze Age.
3. A common pottery type associated with them is the Black and Red Ware.
4. Iron objects are a frequent and characteristic feature of the grave goods.
5. The typology includes structures like dolmens, cists, and menhirs.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3, 4 and 5 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

40. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Megalithic culture is not limited to Peninsular India but has a wider geographical spread beyond.
Statement II : The cultural artefacts from Megalithic sites suggest a society with knowledge of iron metallurgy and some degree of social stratification.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

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(C) The process was uniform and identical in both the Ganga Valley and Peninsular India.
(D) It was associated with the NBPW cultural phase.

58. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (City)
P. Taxila
Q. Ujjain
R. Sisupalgarh
S. Mathura
List II: (Description)
1. An important political and trade centre on the prime meridian of ancient Indian astronomy.
2. Major centre of art and a capital of the Kushanas.
3. A fortified city in ancient Kalinga (modern Odisha) with a planned layout.
4. A famous centre of learning in the northwest, at the crossroads of major trade routes.

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3
(B) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

59. Which of the following important city sites is located in the Gandhara region and was a renowned centre of education?
(A) Vaisali
(B) Kausambi
(C) Rajghat
(D) Taxila

60. Regarding the urban site of Sisupalgarh, which statement is correct?
(A) It was the capital of the Magadhan empire.
(B) It is known for its impressive square-shaped fortification.
(C) It was a major port for trade with the Roman empire.
(D) It is primarily a Painted Grey Ware site.

61. Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order:
1. Emergence of the city of Kausambi as a major NBPW centre.
2. Flourishing of the Mature Harappan city of Mohenjo-Daro.
3. Establishment of the colonial port city of Calcutta.
4. Predominance of PGW culture at sites like Hastinapur.

(A) 2, 4, 1, 3
(B) 4, 2, 1, 3
(C) 1, 2, 4, 3
(D) 2, 1, 4, 3

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62. What is the primary historical significance of sites like Rajghat, Ujjain, and Vaisali?
(A) examples of Megalithic burial sites.
(B) early agricultural villages.
(C) sites yielding only Painted Grey Ware.
(D) prominent urban centres of the Early Historic period.

63. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Mathura was an important urban centre in the Early Historic period.
Reason (R) : It was strategically located at the crossroads of trade routes and later became a major religious and artistic hub.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

64. All of the following are important city sites of the Early Historic period EXCEPT:
(A) Sravasti
(B) Hallur
(C) Kausambi
(D) Ujjain

65. Consider the following statements about early historic cities:
1. Kausambi, located on the Yamuna, was the capital of the Vatsa kingdom.
2. Sravasti was a prominent city in the kingdom of Kosala.
3. Vaisali was the capital of the Lichchhavis and an important republican state.

explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

49. What does the existence of multiple modes of economic production during the Early Historic period imply?
(A) existence of only agricultural production.
(B) a combination of agriculture, craft production, and trade.
(C) a purely pastoral economy.
(D) an economy based solely on hunting and gathering.

50. Which statement accurately reflects the developments of the Early Historic period?
(A) The development of trade routes was a key factor in connecting different regions and fostering economic growth.
(B) Urban centres emerged in the Ganga Valley and Peninsular India simultaneously and for the same reasons.
(C) Maritime trade played a negligible role in the economy of the period.
(D) Economic production was limited to a single mode across the subcontinent.

51. The growth of urban centres in the Ganga Valley was facilitated by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) The use of iron axes and ploughshares
(B) The development of craft specialization
(C) A decline in population
(D) The organization of trade

52. The beginning of the Early Historic period is most closely associated with:
(A) the systemic decline and eventual collapse of the Harappan civilization.
(B) the arrival of the Portuguese in India.
(C) the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.
(D) the emergence of writing, coinage, and urbanism post-PGW phase.

53. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The emergence of urban centres in Peninsular India was often linked to trade routes and raw material sources.
Statement II : The urban process in the Ganga Valley was significantly supported by the agrarian surplus of the fertile plains.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

54. A historian studying the economy of the Early Historic period finds evidence of Roman coins at an Indian coastal site and mentions of Indian goods in Roman texts. This evidence is a primary indicator of:
(A) Multiple modes of economic production
(B) Maritime trade
(C) The chronology of Painted Grey Ware
(D) The typology of Megalithic culture

55. Consider the following aspects of the Early Historic economy:
1. Economic production was diverse, including both agriculture and crafts.
2. Trade routes developed, connecting various parts of the subcontinent.
3. Maritime trade became an important component of the economy.
4. New urban centres emerged as hubs of economic activity.
5. The economy reverted to a simple barter system, abandoning all forms of currency.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

56. The expansion of trade in the Early Historic period led to the development of specific paths for commerce, which are referred to as:
(A) trade routes.
(B) royal highways.
(C) pilgrimage trails.
(D) military corridors.

57. Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the emergence of urbanism in India?
(A) It was a second urbanization following the Harappan one.
(B) It was closely linked to the consolidation of states (Mahajanapadas).

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(C) Ahichhatra
(D) Satanikota

74. What does the presence of sites like Sringaverpura, with its tank complex, and Arikamedu, as a trade port, signify about the historical period?
(A) the functional specialization and diversity of settlements in the historical period.
(B) the uniformity of all historical sites.
(C) the complete absence of religious structures in the historical period.
(D) the exclusive focus on agriculture in all settlements.

75. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The site of Pattanam in Kerala is significant for the study of maritime trade in the Early Historic period.
Reason (R) : Excavations at Pattanam have revealed evidence of trade contacts with the Mediterranean world, similar to Arikamedu.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

76. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Atiranjikhera and Hasthinapur are important for understanding the PGW cultural phase.
Statement II : Chandarketugarh in Bengal is known for its distinctive terracotta art and evidence of trade.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

77. Which of the following statements about the listed historical sites is incorrect?
(A) Kodumanal is a site in Tamil Nadu known for its gem industry and Iron Age context.
(B) Satanikota in Andhra Pradesh was a fortified settlement of the Early Historic period.
(C) Khairadih is a well-known Indo-Roman port on the west coast.
(D) Nasik in Maharashtra is famous for its Satavahana period rock-cut caves.

78. Consider the following statements:
1. Ahichhatra was the capital of North Panchala.
2. Nagarjunakonda is primarily associated with Jainism.
3. Adam, in Maharashtra, has shown evidence of an early fortified settlement.
4. All the historical sites listed are urban centres.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 3 and 4 only

79. The site of Hasthinapur provides a crucial archaeological sequence that includes which two important cultural layers?
(A) Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware
(B) Neolithic and Chalcolithic
(C) Harappan and Kushan
(D) Megalithic and Indo-Roman

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80. Identify the correctly matched pair of a historical site and its significance.
(A) Sringaverpura - A major sea port
(B) Atiranjikhera - Evidence of early iron use in a PGW context
(C) Nagarjunakonda - An early iron smelting centre
(D) Pattanam - The capital of the Mauryan Empire

81. In the context of the Iron Age, 'cultural artefacts' refers to:
(A) only the skeletal remains found in burials.
(B) objects made or modified by humans, such as pottery, tools, and ornaments.
(C) natural geological formations found near archaeological sites.
(D) ancient texts describing the culture of the period.

4. All these cities were located in Peninsular India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

66. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Rajghat, the ancient site of Varanasi, provides evidence of continuous occupation from the NBPW period onwards.
Statement II : Ujjain was an important political and commercial centre located in Central India.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

67. Identify the incorrectly matched pair of an ancient city and its modern location/region.
(A) Taxila - Pakistan
(B) Ujjain - Madhya Pradesh
(C) Sisupalgarh - Bihar
(D) Vaisali - Bihar

68. An excavation reveals a massive brick fortification, numerous NBPW sherds, punch-marked coins, and structures indicative of a dense population. To which of the following categories would this site most likely belong?
(A) An early iron smelting site like Malhar.
(B) A Megalithic burial complex.
(C) A PGW rural settlement.
(D) An important city site like Kausambi.

69. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Arikamedu
Q. Sringaverpura
R. Nagarjunakonda
S. Hasthinapur
List II: (Description)
1. Famous for its elaborate hydraulic system (water tank complex).
2. A major PGW site, traditionally linked to the Mahabharata epic.
3. An Indo-Roman trading station on the Coromandel Coast.
4. A major Buddhist centre in the Krishna valley, named after a famous philosopher.

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

70. Which historical site, located near Puducherry, is famous as an Indo-Roman trading port?
(A) Pattanam
(B) Arikamedu
(C) Chandarketugarh
(D) Satanikota

71. Which statement correctly characterizes the diverse nature of ancient Indian settlements such as urban hubs, trading posts, and regional specialized sites?
(A) They represent a mix of urban centres, trade posts, and settlements with specific features from various regions.
(B) They consist almost exclusively of large Megalithic stone burial monuments.
(C) They were all originally established during the late British colonial period.
(D) They are all primary urban hubs located within the fertile Ganga Valley.

72. Consider the following historical sites:
1. Arikamedu and Pattanam were significant in maritime trade.
2. Hasthinapur and Atiranjikhera have yielded Painted Grey Ware.
3. Sringaverpura is noted for its advanced hydraulic engineering.
4. Nagarjunakonda was a major centre of Buddhism in the south.
5. All the above-mentioned sites are located in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 5 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

73. All of the following are historical sites located in Peninsular India EXCEPT:
(A) Nasik
(B) Adam

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5. The urban centres were primarily a Ganga Valley phenomenon, with no counterparts in the Peninsula.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 4 only
(D) 2 and 5 only

90. The best description for the Iron Age in Peninsular India is:
(A) a cultural phase largely represented by the Megalithic tradition.
(B) a period defined solely by the NBPW culture.
(C) a time when iron was used, but no settlements existed.
(D) a direct continuation of the Harappan civilization.

91. Which statement correctly describes a characteristic of the NBPW culture?
(A) Its pottery is coarse, handmade, and exclusively red in colour.
(B) Its geographical extent is strictly limited to the modern state of Punjab.
(C) Iron technology was unknown during the NBPW phase.
(D) It is chronologically associated with the emergence of the Mahajanapadas and second urbanisation.

92. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Megalithic monuments of Peninsular India show considerable typological diversity.
Reason (R) : They include various forms such as dolmens, cists, menhirs, and stone circles, reflecting varied local customs and practices.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

93. The historical site of Chandarketugarh is located in which modern Indian state?
(A) Bihar
(B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) West Bengal
(D) Odisha

94. Which of the following sites is primarily known for its Painted Grey Ware (PGW) association rather than being an urban capital of the Early Historic period?
(A) Vaisali
(B) Sravasti
(C) Mathura
(D) Atiranjikhera

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95. Consider the following statements related to Iron Age cultures:
1. Painted Grey Ware is a luxury ceramic associated with the Mauryan court.
2. The Megalithic culture is primarily identified through its unique burial practices.
3. Northern Black Polished Ware has a limited distribution compared to PGW.
4. The use of iron was a key technological feature of both the PGW and Megalithic cultures.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

96. Which of the following pairs of a site and its prominent feature is correctly matched?
(A) Hasthinapur - Megalithic burials
(B) Sringaverpura - Hydraulic engineering
(C) Arikamedu - Painted Grey Ware
(D) Ujjain - Harappan seals

97. A historian wants to study the impact of long-distance maritime trade on the economy of Early Historic South India. Which two sites would be the most important to investigate?
(A) Hasthinapur and Ahichhatra
(B) Arikamedu and Pattanam
(C) Malhar and Dadupur
(D) Sravasti and Kausambi

98. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Kodumanal

82. The development of iron ploughshares and axes in the Ganga Valley directly contributed to:
(A) the clearance of dense forests and generation of a larger agricultural surplus.
(B) the immediate decline of the NBPW pottery tradition.
(C) a mass migration of population towards Peninsular India.
(D) the abandonment of all other metals like copper and bronze.

83. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Ware)
P. Painted Grey Ware
Q. Northern Black Polished Ware
R. Black and Red Ware
S. Rouletted Ware
List II: (Characteristic)
1. Associated with Indo-Roman trade at sites like Arikamedu
2. Lustrous, high-quality ware of the Early Historic urban phase
3. Distinctive pottery of the Peninsular Indian Megaliths
4. Fine grey pottery with black painted designs, found in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

84. Raja Nal-ka-tila, a site providing new evidence on the antiquity of iron, is located in which modern state of India?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Uttar Pradesh

85. Which of the following statements about the chronology of Iron Age cultures is incorrect?
(A) The NBPW phase is generally considered to be the zenith of the Iron Age, leading into the Early Historic period.
(B) The PGW culture in the Ganga Valley predates the NBPW culture.
(C) The use of iron in India began only after the arrival of Alexander the Great.
(D) The beginnings of the Iron Age in Peninsular India, associated with Megaliths, are contemporary with the PGW phase in the north.

86. Arrange the following sites based on the primary cultural phase for which they are noted, from earliest to latest:
1. Arikamedu (Indo-Roman Trade)
2. Malhar (Early Iron evidence)
3. Hasthinapur (PGW)
4. Kausambi (NBPW Urban Centre)
(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 3, 2, 1, 4
(C) 1, 4, 3, 2
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

87. An archaeologist needs to investigate the transition from a rural, agrarian society to an early urban one in the Ganga Valley. Which of the following site-pairs would be most crucial to excavate and compare?
(A) Arikamedu and Pattanam
(B) Hallur and Kumaranahalli
(C) Two different Megalithic cist burial sites
(D) A PGW-dominant site and an NBPW-dominant site

88. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The emergence of urban centres in Peninsular India was independent of developments in the Ganga Valley.
Statement II : Trade routes, both inland and maritime, connected the two regions, facilitating mutual influence.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

89. Consider the following statements regarding the emergence of cities in the Early Historic period:
1. Taxila was an important city in the northwest of the subcontinent.
2. Sisupalgarh in Odisha is noted for its well-planned fortifications.
3. The growth of these cities was unrelated to economic factors like trade.
4. Mathura and Ujjain were major urban hubs.

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24. What is a defining characteristic trait of the Northern Black Polished Ware?
(A) It has a distinctive glossy black surface, sometimes in other shades, with a metallic sheen.
(B) It is a coarse, handmade, and poorly fired pottery found primarily in rural contexts.
(C) It is always painted with elaborate floral designs in multiple colours and pigments.
(D) It is found exclusively in burial contexts within large stone Megalithic monuments.

25. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Hasthinapur
Q. Kausambi
R. Hallur
S. Arikamedu
List II: (Primary Cultural Association)
1. Early Iron Age (Peninsular)
2. Maritime Trade Centre
3. Painted Grey Ware Culture
4. Northern Black Polished Ware (Urban Centre)
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

26. The geographical extent of the NBPW culture includes all the following regions EXCEPT:
(A) The extreme southern tip of Peninsular India as a primary zone
(B) The Ganga Valley
(C) Central India
(D) Parts of Eastern India

27. The chronology of the NBPW culture is best placed within the:
(A) Chalcolithic period.
(B) Early Historic period.
(C) Neolithic period.
(D) Mature Harappan period.

28. Consider the following statements regarding the NBPW culture:
1. The term 'Northern' accurately reflects its exclusive distribution in North India.
2. NBPW is chronologically later than the PGW culture in the Ganga Valley.
3. The ware is known for its thick, heavy, and gritty fabric.
4. It is associated with the rise of urbanism and trade in the Ganga Valley.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

29. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Northern Black Polished Ware culture marks a significant development in ceramic technology.
Statement II : The wider geographical extent of NBPW compared to PGW suggests expanding trade and communication networks.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

30. Identify the incorrect pair of a cultural phase and its characteristic feature.
(A) Painted Grey Ware - Use of iron and painted pottery
(B) NBPW Culture - Rise of cities and luxury pottery
(C) Megalithic Culture - Use of large stones for funerary monuments
(D) Early Iron Age - Complete absence of agriculture

31. An archaeologist discovers sherds of a very fine, glossy black pottery with a mirror-like sheen at a depth corresponding to the 5th century BCE in the Ganga Valley. This pottery would most likely be classified as:
(A) Northern Black Polished Ware
(B) Painted Grey Ware
(C) Black and Red Ware
(D) Ochre Coloured Pottery

32. The Megalithic culture in Peninsular India is predominantly known for its:
(A) large urban centres with planned layouts.
(B) elaborate funerary monuments.
(C) distinctive painted grey pottery.

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Q. Adam
R. Khairadih
S. Sisupalgarh

List II: (Region/State)
1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Odisha
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Maharashtra

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

99. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Painted Grey Ware culture represents the first major use of iron in the Ganga valley.
Statement II : Sites like Atiranjikhera have yielded iron objects in PGW levels.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

100. The chronological context of the Megalithic culture refers to:
(A) The geographical area where the monuments are found.
(B) The types of stones used in their construction.
(C) The identity of the people who built them.
(D) The specific time period during which these monuments were constructed.

101. Which historical site is known for being an important Buddhist center in the Krishna River valley?
(A) Satanikota
(B) Adam
(C) Nagarjunakonda
(D) Nasik

102. Consider the following statements about Iron Age sites in India:
1. Hallur and Kumaranahalli are important sites for early iron evidence in the Peninsula.
2. Dadupur and Raja Nal-ka-tila are located in South India.
3. Atiranjikhera shows a cultural sequence from OCP to NBPW, including PGW.
4. Satanikota was a fortified settlement in the Deccan.
5. Kodumanal, a Peninsular site, is notable for its role in the antiquity of iron.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 2, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

103. Which of the following is an incorrect statement?
(A) The emergence of urban centres in the Ganga valley is often termed the 'Second Urbanization'.
(B) The NBPW is a de-luxe ware associated with this urban growth.
(C) The expansion of trade was a crucial factor in this process.
(D) This urbanization was a sudden event with no preceding cultural developments.

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104. The primary significance of the Painted Grey Ware culture in Indian history is its association with the:
(A) Early Iron Age in the Ganga basin and the setting of the later Vedic period.
(B) Mature Harappan phase.
(C) Indo-Roman trade network.
(D) Establishment of the Mauryan empire.

105. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The site of Atiranjikhera is of great importance for Indian archaeology.
Reason (R) : It has provided some of the earliest evidence for iron use in the Ganga Valley, associated with the PGW culture.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

106. The term Megalithic literally means:
(A) Large Stone

beyond, implying a wider distribution.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

179. The cultural artefacts of the Megalithic tradition, such as iron weapons and horse-fittings, suggest a society that was:
(A) entirely peaceful and agrarian.
(B) nomadic and without any material possessions.
(C) organized, with martial elements and possibly chieftains.
(D) technologically primitive, using only stone tools.

180. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
(A) Hasthinapur has yielded both PGW and NBPW.
(B) Atiranjikhera is significant for early iron in a PGW context.
(C) Sringaverpura is famous for its tank complex.
(D) Ahichhatra was a minor village of no historical importance.

181. The site of Satanikota is located on the bank of which river?
(A) Krishna
(B) Godavari
(C) Tungabhadra
(D) Kaveri

182. A 'Menhir', in the context of Megalithic typology, is a:
(A) circular arrangement of stones.
(B) single tall upright stone erected as a monument or memorial.
(C) burial chamber with a port-hole.
(D) pit burial marked by a small heap of stones.

183. What is true about the city of Mathura during the Early Historic period?
(A) It was an isolated city with no connection to major inland trade routes.
(B) It was a settlement primarily defined by its numerous Megalithic monuments.
(C) Its economic importance declined rapidly following the rise of the Kushanas.
(D) It was important both as a commercial crossroad and a center for religious art (Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical).

184. Case: Excavations at a coastal site in Tamil Nadu reveal a large number of Roman amphorae sherds, Arretine ware, and local Black and Red ware.
Question: This site is most likely to be:
(A) Arikamedu
(B) Hasthinapur
(C) Sravasti
(D) Malhar

185. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The beginning of the Early Historic period is marked by a process of de-urbanization.
Statement II : This period is, in fact, characterized by the emergence of new urban centres in the Ganga Valley and elsewhere.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

186. All of the following are significant historical period sites EXCEPT:
(A) Lothal
(B) Adam
(C) Nasik
(D) Chandarketugarh

187. The key economic change that underpinned the growth of new urban centres was the:
(A) shift from a surplus-producing economy to a subsistence one.
(B) complete replacement of agriculture by trade.
(C) introduction of a factory-based industrial system.
(D) ability to generate a substantial agricultural surplus, supporting non-food producers.

188. Nasik, a significant historical site, is particularly famous for its caves associated with which dynasty?
(A) Mauryas
(B) Satavahanas

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115. The discovery of iron artefacts in the PGW levels at Atiranjikhera is significant because it:
(A) Proves that the Harappans used iron.
(B) Shows that the Mauryans imported all their iron from Rome.
(C) Definitively links the early use of iron with a specific cultural phase in the Ganga Valley.
(D) Indicates that PGW culture was a maritime culture.

116. All of the following are types of Megalithic monuments EXCEPT:
(A) Dolmen
(B) Cist
(C) Menhir
(D) Stupa

117. Consider the following statements about historical sites:
1. Nasik is known for rock-cut caves from the Satavahana period.
2. Satanikota, on the banks of the Tungabhadra, was a fortified town.
3. Chandarketugarh is located in the Ganga-Yamuna doab.
4. Khairadih has yielded evidence of NBPW culture.
5. Ahichhatra was a capital of the Panchala kingdom.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(B) 2, 3 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

118. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The geographical spread of Northern Black Polished Ware is far more extensive than that of Painted Grey Ware.
Statement II : The production of NBPW required a simpler firing technique than PGW.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

119. Which statement correctly describes the economic production during the period of NBPW culture?
(A) The economy was solely based on hunting and gathering.
(B) There was a decline in agriculture and a return to pastoralism.
(C) All production was controlled by the state with no private enterprise.
(D) There were multiple modes of production, including intensive agriculture and specialized crafts like pottery and metalworking.

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120. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The emergence of urban centres in the Ganga Valley was a pivotal development in the Early Historic period.
Reason (R) : This urban growth was sustained by an agricultural surplus, craft specialization, and expanding trade networks, leading to complex social and political formations.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

121. Which of the following sites is NOT located in the Ganga Valley?
(A) Rajghat
(B) Kausambi
(C) Ujjain
(D) Sravasti

122. A political science student is studying the origins of republican states in ancient India. Which archaeological site would be most relevant as a case study?
(A) Vaisali
(B) Sisupalgarh
(C) Taxila
(D) Arikamedu

123. Consider the following statements regarding the Iron Age in India:

1. The term Iron Age refers to a uniform culture that existed all over India.
2. In North India, it is associated with PGW and NBPW cultures.
3. In Peninsular India, it is largely represented by the Megalithic culture.
4. The use of iron had no significant impact on agriculture or society.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

124. What is a characteristic trait of the Painted Grey Ware?
(A) It is a thick, sturdy pottery meant for storage.
(B) It is a fine, wheel-made grey pottery painted with black geometric designs.
(C) It is known for its highly lustrous black surface.
(D) It is typically found in Megalithic graves in South India.

125. The term 'maritime trade' specifically refers to:
(A) Trade conducted along rivers.
(B) Trade conducted across land using caravans.
(C) Trade conducted across seas and oceans.
(D) Local barter exchange within a village.

126. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Site)
P. Sravasti
Q. Nasik
R. Nagarjunakonda
S. Pattanam
List II: (State)
1. Kerala
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Maharashtra
4. Uttar Pradesh
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

127. Which important historical site is traditionally identified with the capital of the Kuru kingdom in the Mahabharata?
(A) Hasthinapur
(B) Ahichhatra
(C) Kausambi
(D) Rajghat

128. Which of the following statements concerning the Megalithic culture is incorrect?
(A) It is primarily a peninsular phenomenon, though found beyond.
(B) The burials are uniform in type, consisting only of dolmens.
(C) Black and Red ware is a characteristic pottery.
(D) Grave goods often include iron implements.

129. Consider the following statements about early iron evidence:
1. Malhar and Dadupur have provided new evidence on the antiquity of iron.
2. Hallur is a site in the Ganga Valley.
3. The use of iron is believed to have facilitated forest clearance and agricultural expansion.
4. Kodumanal and Kumaranahalli are early Iron Age sites in Peninsular India.
5. The introduction of iron immediately led to the abandonment of copper-bronze technology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 3 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

130. The cultural remains at Rajghat (ancient Kashi) are most significant for tracing the history of:
(A) a major Ganga valley urban centre from the NBPW period onwards.
(B) an isolated Megalithic community.
(C) an Indo-Roman trading port.
(D) a Paleolithic hunting camp.

131. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware are two major ceramic traditions of the Iron Age in North India.
Statement II : Chronologically, the NBPW phase succeeds the PGW phase in the Ganga Valley.

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(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

132. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Read the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The study of sites like Arikamedu and Pattanam is crucial for understanding India's ancient economy.
Reason (R) : These sites provide direct archaeological evidence for extensive maritime trade between India and the Roman world.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

133. Ujjain, an important ancient city, was located on the banks of which river?
(A) Ganga
(B) Yamuna
(C) Shipra
(D) Narmada

134. In the context of Megalithic burials, a 'cist' refers to a:
(A) large circular arrangement of stones on the surface.
(B) subterranean box-like chamber built with stone slabs.
(C) single upright memorial stone.
(D) natural cave used for secondary burials.

135. Consider the following pairs:
1. Taxila : Centre of learning
2. Sisupalgarh : Fortified city in Kalinga
3. Arikamedu : Port and trade centre
4. Sringaverpura : Water management system
Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(A) 1, 2 and 4 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

136. Which of the following is a correct statement regarding the expansion of trade in the Early Historic period?
(A) Both internal and maritime trade routes developed, facilitating the exchange of a variety of goods.
(B) Trade was limited to luxury goods for the elite.
(C) Trade was conducted entirely through barter, with no use of currency.
(D) The expansion of trade led to the decline of urban centers.

137. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic trait of the NBPW culture?
(A) Association with the rise of cities.
(B) Use of a highly lustrous pottery.
(C) A primarily rural and aceramic culture.
(D) A chronological setting in the Early Historic period.

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138. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Concept)
P. Early Iron Age Site
Q. PGW Site
R. NBPW Urban Centre
S. Megalithic Site
List II: (Example/Association)
1. Kausambi
2. Hasthinapur
3. Hallur
4. Kodumanal (in its burial context)
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

139. An analysis of faunal remains from a PGW site shows a high percentage of domesticated cattle and pig bones, along with grains like wheat and rice. This evidence points towards an economy based on:
(A) exclusive hunting and gathering.
(B) long-distance maritime trade.
(C) specialized craft production only.
(D) settled agriculture and animal husbandry.

140. Read the given statements and select the correct option.

Statement I : Kodumanal is an important Iron Age site in Peninsular India.
Statement II : The site is also significant for its association with the production of gems and beads, indicating craft specialization.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

141. Consider the following statements regarding Megalithic culture:
1. It is characterized by the use of large stones for building monuments, primarily of a funerary nature.
2. The geographical spread is confined only to the state of Karnataka.
3. Black and Red Ware pottery is a common feature.
4. Iron tools and weapons are frequently found as grave goods.
5. The chronology of the Megalithic culture is uniform across the entire subcontinent.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 3 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 5 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

142. Which of the following sites is known for its impressive Early Historic fortification and is located in present-day Andhra Pradesh?
(A) Adam
(B) Pattanam
(C) Khairadih
(D) Satanikota

143. Identify the correctly matched pair.
(A) Early Historic Urbanization - c. 600 BCE onwards
(B) NBPW - 2500 BCE
(C) PGW - 1500 CE
(D) Megalithic Culture - Paleolithic Period

144. Consider the following statements:
1. The Iron Age in India represents a single, monolithic culture.
2. The emergence of urban centers in the Ganga Valley coincided with the NBPW phase.
3. Maritime trade was non-existent during the Early Historic period.
4. PGW is primarily a south Indian pottery.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 2 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3 only

145. What does the diversity of historical sites like Sringaverpura, with its water management system, Arikamedu as a trading port, and Nagarjunakonda as a religious center, illustrate?
(A) cultural decline and de-urbanization.
(B) regional development and functional specialization of settlements.
(C) the complete dominance of a single imperial power.
(D) a society solely focused on funerary rituals.

146. Which of the following statements about early urban centres is incorrect?
(A) Kausambi was a minor village with no political significance.
(B) Taxila was a cosmopolitan city and a centre of learning.
(C) Mathura was an important hub for trade and art.
(D) Sravasti was a prosperous city in the Kosala kingdom.

147. Consider the following statements about archaeological sites:
1. Ahichhatra and Hasthinapur are key sites for the PGW culture.
2. Atiranjikhera has provided crucial evidence for iron in a PGW context.
3. Chandarketugarh is a site in West Bengal known for terracotta art.
4. Nasik in Maharashtra is associated with the Satavahanas.
5. All the above sites are located within the Ganga-Yamuna doab.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 5 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

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148. The term 'NBPW' stands for:
(A) New Bronze Painted Ware
(B) Northern Bronze Polished Ware
(C) Neolithic Black Painted Ware
(D) Northern Black Polished Ware

149. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Megalithic tradition in India is confined to the Iron Age.
Statement II : In some areas, Megalithic practices continued into the Early Historic period, showing an overlap.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

150. The 'extent' of the Painted Grey Ware culture refers to:
(A) the time period it existed in.
(B) the geographical area over which its characteristic traits are found.
(C) the social structure of its people.
(D) the variety of its tool kit.

151. Which statement correctly describes the relationship between PGW and NBPW cultures?
(A) They were contemporary and co-existed in the same regions without any overlap.
(B) NBPW is a coarser, earlier version of the PGW.
(C) PGW is found in South India, while NBPW is found in North India.
(D) In the Ganga Valley sequence, the NBPW phase generally follows the PGW phase.

152. The site of Sisupalgarh, known for its unique layout, is located near which modern city?
(A) Bhubaneswar
(B) Patna
(C) Varanasi
(D) Chennai

153. The emergence of new urban centres in the Ganga Valley is best seen as a process driven by:
(A) foreign invasion and settlement.
(B) a combination of agricultural surplus, technological change (iron), and social organization.
(C) a sudden climatic change that forced people into cities.
(D) religious decree from a single dominant priestly class.

154. Which of the following is an incorrect statement about the historical site of Arikamedu?
(A) It provides crucial evidence for ancient maritime trade.
(B) It was an important port for maritime trade with the Roman Empire.
(C) Excavations have revealed Roman artefacts like Arretine ware and amphorae.
(D) It is located on the west coast of India, in modern-day Kerala.

155. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The authors of the Megalithic tradition are definitively known to be Dravidian speakers who migrated from the Mediterranean.
Statement II : The question of the identity of the Megalith builders is a subject of ongoing scholarly debate with no single consensus.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

156. An archaeologist finds iron slag, furnaces, and tuyeres at a site like Malhar. This evidence is a direct indicator of:
(A) long-distance trade.
(B) local iron smelting and metallurgical activity.
(C) the construction of large stone monuments.
(D) the practice of writing.

157. Characteristic traits of the Painted Grey Ware culture include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Fine grey pottery with painted motifs.
(B) Association with the early Iron Age in the Ganga basin.
(C) Large, fortified urban centres like those of the NBPW period.
(D) A predominantly rural, agrarian economy.

158. The 'typology' of Megalithic culture involves the classification based on:

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(A) the types of iron tools found.
(B) the linguistic affiliations of the builders.
(C) the chronological dates of the sites.
(D) the form and structure of the burial monuments.

159. The ancient city of Vaisali, an important urban centre, was the capital of which famous Gana-sangha (republic)?
(A) The Lichchhavis
(B) The Sakyas
(C) The Mallas
(D) The Koliyas

160. Identify the correct pairing of a cultural ware and its primary associated region.
(A) Painted Grey Ware - Far South India
(B) Black and Red Ware (Megalithic) - Peninsular India
(C) Northern Black Polished Ware - Indus Valley
(D) Rouletted Ware - Ganga-Yamuna Doab

161. The term new evidence from sites like Dadupur and Raja Nal-ka-tila is significant because it:
(A) confirms the traditional dates for the Iron Age.
(B) challenges previous chronologies by suggesting an earlier start for iron use.
(C) proves that iron was never used in ancient India.
(D) links the Indian Iron Age to South American cultures.

162. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Taxila was situated at a strategic location, connecting India with Central and West Asia.
Statement II : Its location at the crossroads of trade routes contributed to its growth as a cosmopolitan urban and learning centre.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

163. The expansion of trade networks during the Early Historic period directly led to the:
(A) decline and abandonment of all urban centres.
(B) end of all agricultural activities.
(C) increased demand for standardized currency and development of trade routes.
(D) isolation of different regions from each other.

164. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
(A) Nagarjunakonda flourished as a major Buddhist centre.
(B) Sringaverpura showcases remarkable hydraulic engineering from an early period.
(C) Pattanam, like Arikamedu, provides evidence of maritime contacts.
(D) All ancient historical sites were exclusively religious in nature.

165. Which of the following sites, located in modern Uttar Pradesh, is NOT primarily known for its PGW association but for its NBPW phase and as a Mahajanapada capital?
(A) Hasthinapur
(B) Atiranjikhera
(C) Kausambi
(D) Ahichhatra

166. Multiple modes of economic production in the Early Historic period implies that the economy was:
(A) uniform and singular.
(B) complex and diversified, including agriculture, crafts, and trade.
(C) based only on tribute.
(D) primitive and based on foraging.

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167. Which of the following accurately describes a feature of the Megalithic culture of Peninsular India?
(A) It was a Bronze Age culture with no knowledge of iron.
(B) The dead were always cremated and ashes scattered, with no monuments built.
(C) The culture was limited to a single location in Tamil Nadu.
(D) The burials often contain a rich repertoire of iron objects and Black and Red Ware pottery.

168. A researcher wishes to study the urban layout and defensive architecture of an Early Historic

city in eastern India. Which site would be the most suitable case study?
(A) Sisupalgarh
(B) Taxila
(C) Ujjain
(D) Nasik

169. The main difference between the settlements of the PGW culture and the NBPW culture is the:
(A) complete absence of agriculture in the NBPW phase.
(B) transition from a predominantly rural character to a developed urban character.
(C) use of stone tools in PGW phase versus metal tools in NBPW phase.
(D) PGW settlements were coastal while NBPW settlements were inland.

170. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The authors of the Megalithic tradition refers to the first archaeologists who wrote reports on these sites.
Statement II : This phrase pertains to the scholarly quest to identify the people or ethnic groups who created the Megalithic culture.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

171. The historical site of Pattanam, notable for evidence of maritime trade, is located in the modern state of:
(A) Tamil Nadu
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Karnataka
(D) Kerala

172. Identify the incorrect pair of an ancient city and its associated kingdom/region.
(A) Sravasti - Kosala
(B) Kausambi - Gandhara
(C) Ujjain - Avanti
(D) Mathura - Surasena

173. The discovery of a large, well-planned, multi-channelled water tank complex at Sringaverpura provides direct archaeological evidence for:
(A) the worship of water deities as the primary religion.
(B) the construction of naval warships.
(C) advanced knowledge of hydraulic engineering and water management.
(D) a society that lived entirely on floating houses.

174. The 'chronology' of the NBPW culture is best understood as:
(A) The geographical area it covered.
(B) The typological variety of the pottery.
(C) The list of kings who used this pottery.
(D) The specific time frame (c. 700/600 BCE - 100 BCE) in which it flourished.

175. Which statement about the antiquity of iron in India is accurate?
(A) Evidence from sites like Malhar and Hallur suggests an early start to the Iron Age in India.
(B) Iron was first discovered at the city site of Sravasti.
(C) The Iron Age in India began in the medieval period.
(D) All iron technology was imported from China.

176. The site of Khairadih, an important settlement of the historical period, is located in which state?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Bihar
(D) Madhya Pradesh

177. The emergence of urban centres in the Ganga Valley was characterized by all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Growth of population and settlement size.
(B) Appearance of monumental architecture and fortifications.
(C) A decline in trade and craft production.
(D) The development of administrative mechanisms.

178. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The geographical spread of Megalithic culture is limited to Peninsular India.
Statement II : Evidence shows the spread of Megalithic culture in peninsular India and

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(B) Small Stone
(C) Middle Stone
(D) Polished Stone

107. Which statement accurately represents the evidence for the antiquity of iron in India?
(A) Iron was introduced to India by the Greeks in the 4th century BCE.
(B) The Harappan civilization was a major iron-using culture.
(C) Iron was used exclusively in Peninsular India and was unknown in the Ganga Valley.
(D) New evidence from sites like Malhar suggests a much earlier beginning of the Iron Age in India.

108. Consider the following about early historic urban centres:
1. Ujjain was located on a major north-south trade route.
2. Vaisali was the capital of a monarchical kingdom.
3. Rajghat is the ancient site of Varanasi.
4. Sravasti was not an important city during the time of the Buddha.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) 2, 3 and 4 only

109. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India is characterized by a uniform burial type across the entire region.
Statement II : The grave goods found in Megalithic burials are typically limited to pottery, with no metal objects.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

110. The emergence of specialized crafts during the Early Historic period was a direct consequence of:
(A) The systemic decline in agricultural activity.
(B) An agricultural surplus that freed a section of the population for non-food producing activities.
(C) A government decree forcing people to become artisans.
(D) The unavailability of raw materials for farming.

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111. Match the items in List I with those in List II.
List I: (Term)
P. PGW
Q. NBPW
R. Megalith
S. Maritime Trade
List II: (Description)
1. Large stone monument, often funerary.
2. Commerce conducted over sea routes.
3. Painted pottery of the early Iron Age in the Doab.
4. Lustrous pottery of the Mahajanapada period.

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4

112. The site of Adam, an important historical site, is located in the modern state of:
(A) Karnataka
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Kerala

113. Identify the incorrect match between the site and its primary association.
(A) Malhar - Early Iron evidence
(B) Hallur - NBPW type-site
(C) Sravasti - Important city site
(D) Kodumanal - Iron Age site in Peninsula

114. Arrange the following cultural phenomena in the correct chronological order of their appearance or prominence in Indian history:
1. Second Urbanization in the Ganga Valley
2. Megalithic burials in Peninsular India
3. Widespread use of Painted Grey Ware
4. Indo-Roman trade at Arikamedu

(A) 2, 3, 1, 4
(B) 3, 2, 4, 1
(C) 1, 3, 2, 4
(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

(C) Guptas
(D) Cholas

189. Which of the following statements about Iron Age pottery is incorrect?
(A) PGW is a fine grey ware with painted designs, associated with the upper Ganga basin.
(B) NBPW is a lustrous, deluxe ware associated with the second urbanization.
(C) PGW and NBPW are two names for the exact same type of pottery.
(D) Black and Red Ware is commonly found in Megalithic contexts in the Peninsula.

190. The presence of NBPW sherds at sites far away from its core production zone in the Ganga Valley is strong evidence for:
(A) the isolation of the Ganga Valley.
(B) the existence of well-developed trade and exchange networks.
(C) the poor quality of NBPW pottery.
(D) the existence of well-developed trade and exchange networks.

191. The phrase 'authors of the Megalithic tradition' in archaeological discourse refers to the debate about:
(A) the cultural and ethnic identity of the people who built the Megaliths.
(B) the specific scribes who recorded the tradition.
(C) the first modern explorers who discovered the sites.
(D) the deities to whom the monuments were dedicated.

192. Which statement accurately describes the site of Taxila?
(A) It was a major port on the east coast of India.
(B) It was an inland city in the northwest, renowned as a centre of commerce and learning.
(C) It was the capital of the Magadhan empire under Ashoka.
(D) It is primarily known for its large Megalithic stone circles.

193. Which site has yielded evidence for an early Iron Age phase overlapping with a Neolithic-Chalcolithic phase in Karnataka?
(A) Malhar
(B) Hallur
(C) Dadupur
(D) Raja Nal-ka-tila

194. The primary archaeological indicator for the beginning of the Early Historic period in the Ganga Valley is the widespread appearance of:
(A) Northern Black Polished Ware and punch-marked coins.
(B) Microlithic tools.
(C) Harappan seals.
(D) Megalithic burials.

195. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India was aceramic.
Statement II : A characteristic feature of Megalithic burials is the presence of distinctive pottery, especially the Black and Red Ware.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

196. Cultural artefacts from Megalithic contexts include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Iron swords and daggers.
(B) Black and Red Ware pots.
(C) Etched carnelian beads.
(D) NBPW bowls.

197. Which pair is correctly matched?
(A) Dadupur - Megalithic site in Tamil Nadu
(B) Kumaranahalli - NBPW site in Bihar
(C) Raja Nal-ka-tila - Early Iron Age site in Uttar Pradesh
(D) Kodumanal - PGW site in Punjab

198. The strategic location of Ujjain on the trade route connecting the Ganga valley with the western sea ports was a major cause for its:
(A) cultural and economic isolation.
(B) political and commercial prosperity.
(C) decline in the Early Historic period.
(D) classification as a rural settlement.

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(C) It spans from the first millennium BCE to the early CE, overlapping with other periods.
(D) It is a short-lived phenomenon lasting only a century.

270. The passage emphasizes that Megalithic burial sites are crucial for understanding the period primarily because they contain what?
(A) Written historical chronicles
(B) Large caches of gold coins
(C) The architectural plans for ancient cities
(D) The primary evidence for material culture through grave goods

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Investigating the authors of the Megalithic tradition is a central question in South Indian archaeology, moving beyond mere description of monuments to understand the people behind them. The cultural artefacts interred with the deceased provide significant clues. A consistent feature of Megalithic burials is the presence of a distinctive Black-and-Red Ware pottery, alongside a proliferation of iron artefacts. These iron objects are not rudimentary; they include a wide array of tools for agriculture (sickles, hoes), craft-related implements (chisels), and weapons of war (swords, daggers, arrowheads), indicating a society where iron had a transformative impact. The inclusion of such goods suggests a belief in an afterlife where such items would be necessary. Furthermore, the immense labour required to quarry, transport, and erect the megalithic stones implies a degree of social organization and a community effort, possibly directed by a chieftain or an elite group. While the precise identity of these authors remains debated—whether they were pastoralists, settled agriculturalists, or a mix—the archaeological evidence points to complex, iron-using communities with a well-developed material culture, social stratification, and sophisticated ritualistic beliefs concerning death and the afterlife.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is described as a consistent ceramic feature of Megalithic burials?
(A) Northern Black Polished Ware
(B) Painted Grey Ware
(C) Black-and-Red Ware
(D) Ochre Coloured Pottery

272. The variety of iron artefacts found in Megalithic graves, such as sickles, hoes, and swords, indicates what about the society?
(A) They had a rudimentary knowledge of metallurgy.
(B) Iron played a transformative role in agriculture, crafts, and warfare.
(C) They used iron exclusively for ritualistic purposes.
(D) Iron was a rare commodity reserved only for royalty.

273. The passage suggests that the immense labour involved in constructing megaliths implies which societal characteristic?
(A) A lack of technological skill
(B) A highly egalitarian and un-stratified community
(C) A nomadic lifestyle with no permanent settlements
(D) A degree of social organization and community effort

274. The inclusion of tools and weapons as grave goods in Megalithic burials is interpreted as evidence for what belief?
(A) A belief in an afterlife where such items would be needed
(B) A belief in reincarnation as animals
(C) A ritual to prevent the deceased from returning
(D) A practice of discarding unwanted items

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275. The identity of the authors of the Megalithic tradition is described in the passage as:
(A) Conclusively identified as nomadic pastoralists.
(B) Proven to be a single, unified ethnic group.
(C) A subject of ongoing debate, though evidence points to complex, iron-using communities.
(D) Clearly documented in written texts from the period.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

individuals.
(C) the large stones used to construct the monument.
(D) the soil composition inside the burial.

211. The significance of the development of trade routes in the Early Historic period was that they:
(A) served only for military campaigns.
(B) were used exclusively for the transport of food grains.
(C) facilitated economic integration, cultural exchange, and the growth of urban centres.
(D) led to the isolation of different regions.

212. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The emergence of urban centres in the Ganga Valley was a process associated with the Painted Grey Ware culture.
Statement II : The first major urbanisation in the Ganga Valley is archaeologically linked with the subsequent Northern Black Polished Ware culture.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

213. Which statement about early historical settlements is correct?
(A) Pattanam is a major PGW site in Haryana.
(B) Khairadih is a Megalithic site in Tamil Nadu.
(C) Adam is an early historic fortified site in Maharashtra.
(D) Chandarketugarh is an Indo-Roman port in Gujarat.

214. The ancient city of Sravasti was the capital of which Mahajanapada?
(A) Magadha
(B) Kosala
(C) Avanti
(D) Vatsa

215. The 'typology' of the Megalithic culture in peninsular India includes a variety of forms. Which of the following is NOT a standard type of Megalithic monument?
(A) Cist burial
(B) Dolmen
(C) Menhir
(D) Brick temple

216. A historian studying state formation in the Ganga Valley would find the archaeological evidence of the NBPW culture most useful because it:
(A) coincides with the period of the Mahajanapadas and the rise of kingdoms like Magadha.
(B) represents the earliest agricultural phase.
(C) is exclusively found in Peninsular India.
(D) shows a decline in social complexity.

217. 'Antiquity' in the phrase Antiquity of Iron in India refers to the:
(A) quality or purity of the iron.
(B) great age or earliness of the use of iron.
(C) great age or earliness of the use of iron.
(D) monetary value of iron artefacts.

218. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The site of Kodumanal is mentioned for new evidence on the antiquity of iron and is also a Megalithic site.
Statement II : This suggests a strong association between early iron use and the Megalithic culture in Peninsular India.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

219. The Painted Grey Ware is considered a 'characteristic trait' of its culture because:
(A) it is the only object type found at the sites.
(B) it was used for writing texts.
(C) it was made of gold and silver.
(D) it is a distinctive and consistently found ceramic that helps define and identify the culture archaeologically.

220. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
(A) The Iron Age saw the development of new technologies.
(B) Trade routes played a minimal role in the economy.

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(C) The emergence of urban centers was a key feature of the Early Historic period.
(D) The Megalithic culture is a major facet of the Iron Age in the Peninsula.

221. The site of Atiranjikhera, which has yielded a long cultural sequence including OCP, PGW, and NBPW, is located in which state?
(A) Bihar
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Haryana

222. Which of the following is a correctly matched pair?
(A) Vaisali - Monarchical state
(B) Taxila - Seaport
(C) Sravasti - Minor village
(D) Ujjain - Capital of Avanti

223. The availability of iron tools for clearing dense vegetation and for deeper ploughing in the Ganga Valley was a significant cause of:
(A) increased agricultural production.
(B) a decline in population.
(C) the abandonment of settled life.
(D) a shift to a hunting-gathering economy.

224. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : Sisupalgarh is a well-excavated, fortified Early Historic city in Odisha.
Statement II : Its layout is haphazard and shows no signs of planning.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

225. The 'geographical spread' of the Megalithic culture refers to:
(A) the different types of burial monuments.
(B) the regional distribution of sites where Megalithic monuments are found.
(C) the chronological period of the culture.
(D) the analysis of the artefacts found within the burials.

226. The important historical site of Ahichhatra was the capital of which part of the Panchala Mahajanapada?
(A) Northern Panchala
(B) Southern Panchala
(C) Eastern Panchala
(D) Western Panchala

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227. What is a key characteristic of the economy of the Early Historic period?
(A) It was a closed economy with no trade.
(B) It was entirely pastoral with no agriculture.
(C) It was marked by multiple modes of production, including agriculture, crafts, and vibrant trade.
(D) It relied solely on imports from the Roman Empire.

228. The archaeological culture that is most closely associated with the period of the Mahajanapadas and the beginning of the second urbanization in the Ganga Valley is the:
(A) Painted Grey Ware culture.
(B) Ochre Coloured Pottery culture.
(C) Megalithic culture.
(D) Northern Black Polished Ware culture.

229. Archaeological sites providing new evidence for the antiquity of iron include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Malhar
(B) Dadupur
(C) Ahichhatra
(D) Raja Nal-ka-tila

230. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The city of Ujjain was important only for religious reasons.
Statement II : Ujjain was a major political and commercial center, situated on a vital trade route, and was also the ancient center for astronomical studies.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

231. Which statement about the chronology and extent of Iron Age cultures is incorrect?

(A) PGW culture is mainly concentrated in the Ghaggar-Hakra and upper Ganga-Yamuna plains.
(B) NBPW culture had a much wider distribution than PGW culture.
(C) The beginning of the Iron Age in different parts of India was not a simultaneous event.
(D) The Megalithic culture of the south is chronologically entirely separate from the Iron Age of the north.

232. Which of the following NOT categorized as one of the primary urban capitals of the Early Historic period?
(A) Pattanam
(B) Taxila
(C) Ujjain
(D) Vaisali

233. An archaeologist unearths a memorial stone in the form of a single, large, upright monolith in a field in Peninsular India, with Iron Age burials nearby. This monument would be typologically classified as a:
(A) Dolmen
(B) Cist
(C) Menhir
(D) Stupa

234. In the context of the Early Historic period, an 'urban centre' is distinguished from a village by its:
(A) larger population, occupational diversity, and administrative functions.
(B) smaller population and a primary focus on subsistence agriculture.
(C) complete lack of any defensive structures or fortification walls.
(D) total absence of religious buildings or large ritual structures.

235. Regarding the sites of the historical period, which statement is correct?
(A) Sringaverpura is located near modern-day Chennai.
(B) Nasik is a site in Uttar Pradesh.
(C) Satanikota is a famous Buddhist site in Bihar.
(D) Adam is a fortified site from the historical period in Maharashtra.

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236. The primary importance of the site of Malhar in early Indian history is its contribution to:
(A) understanding Megalithic typology.
(B) the study of the antiquity of iron in India.
(C) the study of maritime trade.
(D) understanding the NBPW culture.

237. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The expansion of trade in the Early Historic period was limited to land routes only.
Statement II : Maritime trade was a key feature of this period, evidenced by sites like Arikamedu.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

238. Which of the following is a characteristic trait of the Painted Grey Ware culture?
(A) Association with large, fortified cities.
(B) A deluxe pottery with a mirror-like sheen.
(C) Its presence as the main ceramic in South Indian Megaliths.
(D) A fine grey ware with painted geometric patterns in black.

239. Which of these statements about Early Historic cities is incorrect?
(A) Vaisali was the capital of the powerful Magadhan monarchy.
(B) Kausambi was the capital of the Vatsa kingdom.
(C) Rajghat is the ancient name for the site of Varanasi.
(D) Taxila was a renowned center for education.

240. The increased social and economic complexity during the NBPW phase was a direct cause of:
(A) the decline of iron technology.
(B) the emergence of new political formations like the Mahajanapadas.
(C) a return to a nomadic lifestyle.
(D) the end of all forms of trade.

rice and wheat, and animal husbandry. The PGW culture provides the first clear archaeological context for widespread iron use in the Gangetic plains, laying the material groundwork for the subsequent socio-political developments of the Early Historic period.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What is the primary geographical extent of the Painted Grey Ware culture as described in the passage?
(A) Peninsular India and the Deccan plateau
(B) The Indo-Gangetic divide and the Upper Ganga plains
(C) The entire Indian subcontinent
(D) The Indus Valley and its western peripheries

257. Which of the following is described as the most characteristic feature of the PGW culture?
(A) Large, fortified urban centres
(B) Exclusive use of copper technology
(C) Monumental stone architecture
(D) Fine grey pottery with black geometric patterns

258. According to the passage, the chronological placement of the PGW culture falls between which two major periods?
(A) The Late Harappan phase and the rise of Mahajanapadas
(B) The Neolithic period and the Chalcolithic period
(C) The Early Harappan and the Mature Harappan phases
(D) The Mauryan period and the Gupta period

259. What does the passage indicate about the use of metals during the PGW phase?
(A) Iron completely replaced all other metals.
(B) Bronze was the dominant metal for tools and weapons.
(C) Copper objects were used alongside a proliferation of iron technology.
(D) There is no evidence of metal use in the PGW culture.

260. The subsistence base of the PGW culture is described as a mixed economy. This was based on what?
(A) Agriculture and animal husbandry
(B) Maritime trade and pastoralism
(C) Hunting-gathering and forestry
(D) Craft production and long-distance exchange

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Succeeding the Painted Grey Ware culture in chronological sequence in the Gangetic plains, the Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) culture marks a significant phase of material and social development in the Early Historic period of India. This culture, flourishing from approximately 700 BCE to 200 BCE, is archaeologically distinguished by its deluxe pottery, the NBPW, which is characterized by a fine fabric and a lustrous, jet-black to deep grey finish, sometimes exhibiting other hues. This pottery is considered a high-value item, suggesting a sophisticated level of ceramic technology. The geographical extent of NBPW is considerably wider than that of the preceding PGW, found from Taxila in the northwest to Chandraketugarh in the east and as far south as Amaravati. This phase is intrinsically linked to the period of the Mahajanapadas and the Mauryan empire, coinciding with the Second Urbanization in India. The archaeological strata of NBPW sites reveal a marked increase in the use of iron for agriculture and warfare, the advent of coinage (punch-marked coins), the construction of fortifications, and evidence of a highly stratified society, reflecting the emergence of organized states and complex urban economies.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What is the most distinguishing archaeological feature of the NBPW culture mentioned in the passage?
(A) The construction of megalithic tombs
(B) The widespread use of wattle-and-daub houses
(C) A complete absence of iron implements
(D) A deluxe pottery with a fine fabric and lustrous finish

262. How does the geographical extent of the NBPW culture compare to that of the PGW culture, according to the text?
(A) It has a significantly narrower geographical

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Indian subcontinent has been significantly reshaped by recent archaeological discoveries, challenging previously held chronologies. While the Iron Age was traditionally seen as a relatively later development, new evidence from various sites provides a more nuanced and earlier timeline. Excavations at sites like Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila in the Ganga Valley have yielded dates for iron use that push the timeline back to the early second millennium BCE. This evidence suggests an independent origin or at least a very early adoption of iron technology in this region. Concurrently, in Peninsular India, sites such as Hallur and Kumaranahalli in Karnataka, and Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu, have also provided crucial data. These southern sites, often associated with Megalithic contexts, indicate that iron was an integral part of their material culture from a very early period. The collective evidence from both northern and southern India necessitates a re-evaluation of the diffusionist models and points towards multiple, potentially indigenous, centres of iron production and use, making the start of the Iron Age in India a complex, polycentric phenomenon rather than a single, monolithic event.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what is the primary impact of recent archaeological discoveries on the understanding of the Iron Age in India?
(A) They confirm the traditional chronology of iron introduction.
(B) They have challenged and pushed back the established timeline for iron use.
(C) They suggest iron technology was exclusively imported.
(D) They prove that the Iron Age began simultaneously across the entire subcontinent.

252. Which group of sites is mentioned as providing evidence for early iron use in the Ganga Valley?
(A) Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila
(B) Hallur, Kumaranahalli, and Kodumanal
(C) Hallur, Dadupur, and Kodumanal
(D) Malhar, Raja Nal-ka-tila, and Kumaranahalli

253. The passage suggests that the evidence from Peninsular Indian sites like Hallur and Kumaranahalli is often associated with which cultural context?
(A) Northern Black Polished Ware culture
(B) Painted Grey Ware culture
(C) The Megalithic context
(D) The Early Harappan period

254. What does the term polycentric phenomenon imply regarding the beginning of the Iron Age in India, as suggested by the source?
(A) Iron technology originated from a single centre and spread outwards.
(B) The Iron Age was a monolithic event with a single start date.
(C) Iron use was concentrated only in the political centres of the time.
(D) There were multiple, independent or semi-independent centres of iron origin and use.

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255. The collective evidence discussed in the paragraph calls for a re-evaluation of which specific type of historical model?
(A) Cyclical models of urban decay
(B) Models of maritime trade expansion
(C) Diffusionist models of technological spread
(D) Stratification models of social structure

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Painted Grey Ware (PGW) culture is a significant archaeological culture of the Iron Age, primarily located in the Indo-Gangetic divide and the Upper Ganga plains. Chronologically, it is generally dated from circa 1200 BCE to 600 BCE, situating it in the crucial transitional period between the Late Harappan phase and the emergence of the great Mahajanapadas. The culture is most famously identified by its characteristic pottery: a fine, well-fired, grey-coloured ware, often in the form of bowls and dishes, decorated with geometric patterns in black paint. Beyond the pottery, the PGW phase is associated with the proliferation of iron technology, with artefacts such as arrowheads, spearheads, and tongs being discovered, although copper objects also continued to be in use. The settlements were generally small, rural villages, with evidence of wattle-and-daub houses. The subsistence base was a mixed economy, relying on agriculture, with evidence for the cultivation of

199. Which of the following sites was the capital of the Vatsa Mahajanapada?
(A) Sravasti
(B) Rajghat
(C) Vaisali
(D) Kausambi

200. Which statement regarding the listed historical sites is incorrect?
(A) Satanikota is a site in Kerala.
(B) Adam is a site in Maharashtra.
(C) Chandarketugarh is a site in West Bengal.
(D) Ahichhatra is a site in Uttar Pradesh.

201. A Dolmen is a type of Megalithic monument typically consisting of:
(A) a single standing stone.
(B) a subterranean stone box.
(C) two or more upright stones supporting a large flat horizontal capstone.
(D) a circular pit filled with pottery.

202. The study of the antiquity of Iron in India primarily aims to:
(A) establish a more accurate and potentially earlier timeline for the introduction and use of iron.
(B) determine how iron was used in the modern era.
(C) prove that iron was less important than bronze.
(D) catalogue all iron objects in Indian museums.

203. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Painted Grey Ware culture was primarily urban, with large fortified cities.
Statement II : PGW settlements are generally small, indicating a rural, village-based society.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

204. Archaeological sites such as Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila are geographically located in which part of India?
(A) The Deccan Plateau
(B) The Ganga Valley
(C) The Coromandel Coast
(D) The Thar Desert

205. Which of the following is a correct statement about the NBPW?
(A) It is a crude, handmade pottery.
(B) It is chronologically earlier than the PGW.
(C) Its fine quality and wide distribution suggest it was a high-value commodity linked to trade.
(D) It is found only in burial contexts.

206. Important city sites from the Early Historic period include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Rajghat
(B) Mathura
(C) Kausambi
(D) Nagarjunakonda

207. An excavation at Hasthinapur reveals a layer with Painted Grey Ware directly below a layer containing Northern Black Polished Ware. This stratification is crucial evidence for:
(A) determining the relative chronology of the two cultures.
(B) proving that the two cultures were identical.
(C) understanding Megalithic burial customs.
(D) studying Indo-Roman trade.

208. Identify the incorrect match.
(A) Sisupalgarh - Fortified plan
(B) Sringaverpura - PGW pottery
(C) Arikamedu - Maritime trade
(D) Nagarjunakonda - Buddhist structures

209. The site of Kumaranahalli, noted for early iron evidence, is located in which state?
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Karnataka
(C) Bihar
(D) Rajasthan

210. The term 'cultural artefacts' in the context of the Megalithic culture would include:
(A) the iron daggers, beads, and pottery placed with the deceased.
(B) the skeletal remains of the interred

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extent.
(B) It has a considerably wider geographical distribution.
(C) It is confined only to Peninsular India.
(D) It covers the exact same geographical area.

263. The NBPW culture is described as being intrinsically linked to which major historical development?
(A) The Indus Valley Civilization's decline
(B) The Vedic migrations
(C) The Second Urbanization and the rise of Mahajanapadas
(D) The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate

264. Besides its characteristic pottery, what other significant developments are associated with the NBPW phase?
(A) The first use of domesticated horses
(B) The beginning of agriculture in the Ganga Valley
(C) The exclusive use of stone tools for all activities
(D) The advent of coinage and construction of fortifications

265. The passage suggests that NBPW pottery's status as a high-value item implies what about the society that produced it?
(A) It possessed a sophisticated level of ceramic technology.
(B) It had a primitive and undeveloped economy.
(C) It engaged in very limited trade.
(D) It lacked social stratification.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Iron Age in Peninsular India is most prominently represented by the Megalithic culture, a phenomenon characterized by the construction of elaborate monuments using large stones (megaliths) primarily for funerary purposes. This culture has a vast geographical spread, extending across much of southern India, including the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra, with some manifestations found beyond this core region. The chronological context of these megaliths is broad, generally spanning from the early first millennium BCE to the early centuries of the Common Era, showing a significant overlap with the late Chalcolithic and Early Historic periods. The typology of these burial monuments is remarkably diverse, including forms such as dolmenoid cists (box-like stone chambers), capstone-supported dolmens, rock-cut caves, urn burials marked by a stone circle, and menhirs (monolithic upright stones). This typological variation often reflects regional traditions and the specific social practices of the communities that constructed them. These burial sites are crucial for understanding the period, as the associated grave goods provide the primary evidence for the material culture, technology, and beliefs of the Megalithic people.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What is the primary function of the monuments associated with the Megalithic culture in Peninsular India?
(A) They were primarily astronomical observatories.
(B) They were constructed primarily for funerary purposes.
(C) They served mainly as fortifications.
(D) They were used as royal granaries.

267. According to the passage, the geographical spread of the Megalithic culture was concentrated in which part of India?
(A) The Himalayan foothills
(B) Southern India
(C) The Thar Desert region
(D) The Gangetic plains

268. Which of the following is an example of the typological diversity of Megalithic burial monuments mentioned in the text?
(A) Dolmenoid cists and urn burials
(B) Step wells and water tanks
(C) Stupas and viharas
(D) Terracotta temples and brick altars

269. What does the passage state about the chronological context of the Megalithic culture in Peninsular India?
(A) It is strictly confined to the pre-Iron Age.
(B) It only begins after the Mauryan Empire.

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241. A port-hole cist is a type of Megalithic tomb characterized by:
(A) a large capstone with no other features.
(B) an underground chamber with a circular opening in one of its slabs.
(C) a single standing stone pillar.
(D) a simple pit dug into the earth.

242. Which statement accurately reflects the Iron Age in India?
(A) It manifested differently in various regions, such as the PGW/NBPW cultures in the north and the Megalithic culture in the south.
(B) It was a uniform phenomenon starting at the same time everywhere.
(C) It was a period of technological stagnation and decline.
(D) It is characterized by the complete absence of pottery.

243. Which historical site in Bengal is known for its remarkable terracotta plaques and figurines?
(A) Khairadih
(B) Sravasti
(C) Chandarketugarh
(D) Ahichhatra

244. The association of cities like Rajghat, Ujjain, Vaisali, Taxila, Mathura, Sravasti, and Kausambi highlights:
(A) the main centres of the Megalithic culture.
(B) sites that provide evidence for the antiquity of iron.
(C) the major ports involved in maritime trade.
(D) key examples of the new urban centres that emerged in the Early Historic period.

245. Read the given statements and select the correct option.
Statement I : The Painted Grey Ware culture is associated with the early Iron Age in the Ganga Valley.
Statement II : The Northern Black Polished Ware culture is associated with the Chalcolithic period.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

246. Cultural artefacts typically found in the Megalithic burials of peninsular India include all of the following EXCEPT:
(A) Black-and-Red ware pottery
(B) Harappan script seals
(C) Iron tridents and spears
(D) Beads of carnelian and agate

247. Which site is correctly paired with its major characteristic?
(A) Atiranjikhera - A major seaport
(B) Nagarjunakonda - A major PGW site
(C) Hasthinapur - A Megalithic burial complex
(D) Pattanam - A site showing evidence of maritime trade

248. The discovery of Roman coins, amphorae, and Arretine ware at a coastal site in India is the most direct archaeological evidence for:
(A) maritime trade with the Roman world.
(B) the emergence of urban centres in the Ganga Valley.
(C) the chronology of the Painted Grey Ware culture.
(D) the typology of Megalithic burials.

249. Which historical site in Maharashtra is known for its rock-cut caves?
(A) Adam
(B) Satanikota
(C) Nasik
(D) Pattanam

250. Which statement about the Iron Age cultures is incorrect?
(A) The Megalithic culture of the south was devoid of iron technology.
(B) The PGW culture is mainly found in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and surrounding areas.
(C) The NBPW culture is associated with the rise of cities like Kausambi and Sravasti.
(D) The chronology of the Iron Age varies in different parts of India.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.
The discourse on the antiquity of iron in the

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The beginning of the Early Historic period in the Ganga Valley was marked by a profound transformation, commonly referred to as the Second Urbanization. This process saw the emergence of numerous urban centres, a development underpinned by the widespread adoption of iron technology. Iron axes and ploughshares enabled the clearing of dense forests and the cultivation of heavy alluvial soil, leading to a significant agricultural surplus. This surplus was crucial as it could support a growing non-food-producing population, including artisans, traders, administrators, and soldiers, who congregated in newly forming cities. The social structure became increasingly complex and stratified, moving beyond kin-based societies to more organized state-level polities known as Mahajanapadas. Important city sites from this era, such as Kausambi, Sravasti, and Vaisali, emerged as bustling hubs of political power, economic activity, and religious innovation. These cities were often fortified and featured planned layouts, indicating a centralized authority. The emergence of urban centres in the Ganga Valley was, therefore, not an isolated event but the outcome of a complex interplay between technological advancement, agricultural expansion, and profound socio-political change.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. The emergence of urban centres in the Ganga Valley is commonly referred to as what?
(A) The Second Urbanization
(B) The Neolithic Revolution
(C) The Harappan De-urbanization
(D) The Chalcolithic Transition

277. According to the passage, what was the direct impact of using iron axes and ploughshares in the Ganga Valley?
(A) It led to the immediate collapse of social structures.
(B) It caused a decline in agricultural output.
(C) It was primarily used for ritualistic sacrifices.
(D) It enabled forest clearance and cultivation of heavy alluvial soil.

278. The passage argues that agricultural surplus was a crucial precondition for urbanization because it could:
(A) be traded exclusively for foreign luxury goods.
(B) support a non-food-producing population.
(C) be stored indefinitely without spoilage.
(D) eliminate the need for a political state.

279. The emergence of cities like Kausambi and Sravasti coincided with the rise of what type of political entities?
(A) Small, kin-based tribal groups
(B) The Mauryan Empire
(C) Organized state-level polities known as Mahajanapadas
(D) The Delhi Sultanate

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280. The text describes the rise of cities in the Ganga Valley as the outcome of a complex interplay of factors. Which of the following is NOT one of the factors mentioned?
(A) Technological advancement
(B) Agricultural expansion
(C) Profound socio-political change
(D) Widespread maritime trade with Rome

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

While the Ganga Valley witnessed a dramatic urban efflorescence, the emergence of urban centres in Peninsular India followed a distinct, though interconnected, trajectory during the Early Historic period. Unlike the Gangetic model, which was heavily reliant on an agricultural surplus from alluvial plains, urbanism in the peninsula appears to have been driven by a more diverse set of factors, including the control of trade routes, access to mineral resources, and craft specialization. Sites like Satanikota in Andhra Pradesh, a fortified settlement on the banks of the Tungabhadra, show evidence of being a trade and manufacturing centre. Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu was a crucial industrial centre specializing in the production of iron objects and semi-precious stone beads, which were likely traded over long distances. Nagarjunakonda, though flourishing slightly later, developed into a major political and religious centre. The growth of these sites was often stimulated by both internal exchange networks and burgeoning maritime trade routes connecting the peninsula to the wider world. Thus, while sharing the timeline of the Early

Historic period, the urban process in Peninsular India was less a singular event and more a mosaic of developments rooted in varied economic and geographical contexts.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. How did the primary driver for urbanism in Peninsular India differ from the Ganga Valley model, according to the passage?
(A) It was driven by diverse factors like trade control and craft specialization.
(B) It was solely based on agricultural surplus from alluvial plains.
(C) It was entirely a result of political imposition from the north.
(D) It was unrelated to economic activities and was purely religious.

282. The site of Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu is mentioned as a crucial industrial centre specializing in what products?
(A) Cotton textiles and spices
(B) Iron objects and semi-precious stone beads
(C) Terracotta figurines and pottery
(D) Ivory carving and shipbuilding

283. What is the significance of the site of Satanikota as described in the text?
(A) It was a major centre for Vedic learning.
(B) It was a fortified settlement functioning as a trade and manufacturing centre.
(C) It was exclusively a pastoral settlement with no fortifications.
(D) It was the largest agricultural site in the peninsula.

284. The passage suggests that the growth of urban centres in Peninsular India was stimulated by which two types of exchange?
(A) Internal exchange networks and maritime trade routes
(B) Ritual gift-exchange and tribute collection only
(C) Barter with hunter-gatherer tribes exclusively
(D) Exchange of academic knowledge and religious texts

285. What is the main argument of the passage regarding the urban process in Peninsular India?
(A) It was an exact replica of the urban process in the Ganga Valley.
(B) It was a singular, uniform event across the entire peninsula.
(C) It was a mosaic of developments rooted in varied economic and geographical contexts.
(D) It failed to produce any significant urban centres.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The economic landscape of the Early Historic period was characterized by its dynamism and complexity, fueled by multiple modes of production and an unprecedented expansion of trade. The agricultural base, intensified by iron technology, provided the foundational surplus, but it was complemented by a burgeoning craft production sector. Urban and rural centres saw a proliferation of specialized artisans. Concurrently, trade and exchange networks underwent significant development. Well-defined trade routes, both overland and riverine, crisscrossed the subcontinent, connecting production centres with markets. These routes, such as the Uttarapatha and the Dakshinapatha, facilitated the movement of goods, people, and ideas on a large scale. A pivotal development was the growth of maritime trade. Ports on both the eastern and western coasts began to engage in long-distance sea trade, linking the Indian subcontinent with Southeast Asia and the Roman Empire. This expansion of trade was supported by the emergence of coinage, political patronage from rising states, and the growth of a merchant class. This multi-faceted economic expansion was a key driver of urbanization, providing the material resources and connectivity that sustained the new urban centres.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. According to the passage, what provided the foundational surplus for the economy of the Early Historic period?
(A) Profits from maritime trade
(B) Tribute from conquered territories
(C) Mining of precious metals
(D) An intensified agricultural base

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287. The passage mentions the Uttarapatha and the Dakshinapatha as examples of what?
(A) Major religious philosophies
(B) Dynastic lineages
(C) Well-defined trade routes
(D) Legal texts on commerce

288. What was a pivotal development in the trade of this period, as stated in the text?
(A) The decline of all overland routes
(B) The growth of long-distance maritime trade
(C) The complete state monopoly over all production
(D) The cessation of barter in favour of gift exchange

289. Which of the following is mentioned as a factor that supported the expansion of trade?
(A) The absence of a merchant class
(B) A decline in craft specialization
(C) Political instability and fragmentation
(D) The emergence of coinage

290. The overall argument of the passage is that the economy of the Early Historic period was:
(A) characterized by multiple modes of production and expanding trade.
(B) stagnant and exclusively agrarian.
(C) completely isolated from the rest of the world.
(D) solely dependent on a single cash crop.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The urban landscape of Early Historic India was dotted with important city sites that served as nexuses of power, commerce, and culture. Taxila, strategically located in the northwest, was a great confluence of cultures and a renowned centre of learning, besides being a crucial hub on the overland trade route to Central Asia. In the Gangetic heartland, Mathura rose to prominence not only as a political and economic centre but also as a major hub for religious art, particularly for Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical traditions. Further east, Vaisali was significant as the capital of the Lichchhavis and an important centre for early Buddhism. In central India, Ujjain commanded a strategic position on the trade routes connecting the Ganga valley with the ports of the western coast. Its importance as a commercial and political centre is well attested in ancient texts. On the eastern coast, Sisupalgarh in present-day Odisha stands out as a formidable fortified city with a sophisticated layout and hydraulic structures, showcasing a high degree of urban planning. Each of these cities, while sharing common urban characteristics, possessed a unique identity shaped by its geographical location, political history, and economic specialization.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. According to the passage, which city was renowned as a centre of learning and a hub on the trade route to Central Asia?
(A) Vaisali
(B) Ujjain
(C) Taxila
(D) Sisupalgarh

292. Mathura is described in the text as having gained prominence as a major hub for what?
(A) Religious art
(B) Maritime trade
(C) Iron ore mining
(D) Military training

293. Which city is identified as being strategically important for connecting the Ganga valley with western coastal ports?
(A) Mathura
(B) Taxila
(C) Vaisali
(D) Ujjain

294. The site of Sisupalgarh is noted for which specific feature?
(A) Its status as the capital of the Lichchhavis
(B) Being a formidable fortified city with a sophisticated layout
(C) Its role as a centre for Jaina art
(D) Its location on the overland route to Central Asia

295. What is the central idea presented about the important city sites of Early Historic India?
(A) All cities were identical in their layout and

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function.
(B) The cities were purely religious centres with no economic role.
(C) Each city had a unique identity despite sharing common urban traits.
(D) Urbanization was limited to only one or two major cities.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Beyond the major metropolitan hubs, a number of other important historical period sites provide crucial, specific insights into the diverse facets of life and technology in ancient India. Sringaverpura, near Prayagraj, is remarkable for its elaborate hydraulic engineering, featuring a massive tank complex designed to desalinate and store the floodwaters of the Ganga, showcasing advanced water management skills. Atiranjikhera in Uttar Pradesh is a key multi-culture site, but it is particularly significant for yielding some of the earliest evidence for iron in the Ganga Valley within a stratified context, crucial for dating the technology. In the Deccan, Satanikota stands out as an early fortified town from the Satavahana period. On the eastern coast, Arikamedu, near Puducherry, became famous as a Roman trading station, with its wharfs and warehouses yielding Roman amphorae and other artefacts that provide concrete evidence of Indo-Roman maritime trade. The site of Chandraketugarh in Bengal has revealed a rich repository of terracotta art, suggesting a vibrant urban culture. Similarly, Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu, an important industrial centre, further cements our understanding of the interconnectedness of craft production and trade networks across the peninsula and beyond.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. The site of Sringaverpura is described as remarkable for what specific achievement?
(A) Its production of Northern Black Polished Ware
(B) Its role as a major centre for bead making
(C) Its evidence of early Megalithic burials
(D) Its elaborate hydraulic engineering and water management system

297. Arikamedu is famous in the archaeological record primarily as a:
(A) Roman trading station evidencing maritime trade.
(B) Mauryan administrative capital.
(C) Palaeolithic tool factory.
(D) Centre for Vedic philosophy.

298. What is the particular significance of the site Atiranjikhera, as mentioned in the passage?
(A) It was a major port on the western coast.
(B) It provides some of the earliest stratified evidence for iron in the Ganga Valley.
(C) It is known for its massive stone stupa built by Ashoka.
(D) It has yielded a rich repository of Gupta-period gold coins.

299. Which site mentioned in the passage has revealed a rich repository of terracotta art, suggesting a vibrant urban culture in Bengal?
(A) Satanikota
(B) Chandraketugarh
(C) Arikamedu
(D) Sringaverpura

300. The passage uses sites like Sringaverpura, Arikamedu, and Kodumanal to illustrate what broader point?
(A) That various sites offer specific insights into diverse aspects like technology, trade, and craft.
(B) That all historical sites were identical in function.
(C) That ancient India lacked technological sophistication.
(D) That urban life was confined only to the Ganga Valley.

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ANSWER

1. (B) Malhar

   Malhar is a significant archaeological site located in the Karmanasa river valley of Uttar Pradesh. Recent excavations there have provided revolutionary evidence regarding the beginning of iron use in the Indian subcontinent. Radio-carbon dates from this site suggest that iron technology was present much earlier than previously assumed. This discovery has fundamentally shifted the chronological understanding of the early Iron Age in the central Ganga valley.

2. (A) first appearance and widespread adoption of iron for tools and weapons.

   The transition to the Iron Age marks a pivotal shift in human technological progression within the Indian subcontinent. This era is defined by the initial emergence and subsequent extensive utilization of iron for manufacturing various implements and armaments. Unlike previous periods dominated by stone or copper, this stage highlights the mastery of smelting techniques. This advancement significantly influenced agricultural expansion and shifted the socioeconomic landscape of early societies.

3. (C) It suggests an earlier date for the beginning of the Iron Age in India than previously thought.

   Archaeological findings from Dadupur and Raja Nal-ka-tila have provided critical data regarding the early use of iron. These sites offer stratigraphic evidence and radiocarbon dates that push the origin of iron technology in India back into the second millennium BCE. This new information challenges the older consensus that iron appeared later. Consequently, historians are now re-evaluating the timeline of technological and cultural developments during the proto-historic period.

4. (D) Sravasti

   While sites like Hallur, Kumaranahalli, and Kodumanal are renowned for their early evidence related to iron metallurgy, Sravasti is primarily known as an urban center of the Early Historic period. The other listed locations provide stratigraphical data pushing back the chronology of iron use in Peninsular India and the Ganga valley. Sravasti, however, represents a later phase of urban development associated with the Northern Black Polished Ware culture.

5. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.

   Hallur and Kumaranahalli are vital archaeological sites located in the southern part of India, specifically within Karnataka. These locations have yielded significant evidence regarding the transition from the Neolithic-Chalcolithic phase to the early Iron Age. However, they are not associated with the mature Harappan period, which was a Bronze Age civilization primarily located in the northwestern part of the subcontinent. Thus, they specifically illuminate the Peninsular Iron Age sequence.

6. (B) gradual transition and regional variation in the adoption of iron technology.

   The introduction of iron in ancient India was not a sudden or uniform event across the entire subcontinent. Instead, it was characterized by a slow transition from previous metallurgical traditions. Different geographical regions adopted iron technology at varying rates based on local needs and resource availability. This regional variation is visible in the diverse archaeological assemblages found across northern and southern India, reflecting complex and localized technological developments.

7. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

   Understanding the Iron Age requires a detailed study of sites like Malhar and Raja Nal-ka-tila. These specific locations have provided revolutionary radiocarbon dates that revise the timeline of metallurgy in the subcontinent. By pushing back the antiquity of iron, these findings make the sites indispensable for modern archaeological research. The evidence found there provides the necessary factual basis for redefining the chronological boundaries of early Indian technological history and societal growth.

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8. (A) Early evidence of iron smelting and craft production

Kodumanal, situated in the Erode district of Tamil Nadu, serves as a crucial site for understanding early industrial activities. Excavations have revealed substantial evidence of iron smelting furnaces and a variety of iron tools and weapons. Additionally, the site shows signs of specialized craft production, including a highly developed gem and bead industry. This combination of activities highlights the site's importance as a center of technological and economic exchange.

9. (C) Kodumanal is a site located in the extreme north of India.

Kodumanal is actually an important archaeological site located in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, not the north. It is famous for its association with the Iron Age and early historic period, providing evidence of iron smelting and bead making. Other sites like Malhar and Dadupur are indeed situated in the Ganga Valley. The discoveries at these locations collectively challenge previous assumptions about the timeline and geographical distribution of iron technology.

10. (A) 1 and 3 only

Raja Nal-ka-tila is an essential site for tracing the early roots of iron in North India. Similarly, Hallur and Kumaranahalli provide significant insights into the early Iron Age in the Peninsular region. However, archaeological evidence does not support the idea that iron use was simultaneous everywhere; it shows regional variations. Furthermore, the study of iron's antiquity relies heavily on material archaeological evidence like slag and tools rather than just literary texts.

11. (B) A significant increase in agricultural productivity and land clearance.

The adoption of iron tools, particularly axes and ploughshares, had a transformative effect on early Indian societies. These stronger implements allowed communities to clear the dense forests of the Ganga Valley more efficiently than before. This process facilitated the expansion of cultivated land, leading to a substantial increase in agricultural surplus. This surplus, in turn, supported growing populations and eventually paved the way for the emergence of the first urban centers.

12. (B) the antiquity of iron in India.

Finding iron implements in much older stratigraphic layers than previously recorded directly impacts the chronological understanding of metallurgy. Such evidence is essential for determining when iron technology first appeared and became widespread in a region. This research focus is known as the study of the antiquity of iron. It helps archaeologists revise historical timelines and understand the technological capabilities of early societies long before the arrival of better-documented historic periods.

13. (A) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-2

Painted Grey Ware is characterized by fine grey pottery with black designs, commonly associated with early iron use in North India. Northern Black Polished Ware is a later, highly lustrous ceramic linked to urban centers. Megalithic culture is primarily identified by its distinctive large stone burial monuments found in Peninsular India. Matching these traits correctly allows for a better understanding of the cultural and technological progression from the early Iron Age to urbanism.

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14. (D) The Ganga-Yamuna doab

The Painted Grey Ware culture flourished primarily in the fertile plains of the Ganga-Yamuna doab and the adjoining regions of the Ghaggar-Hakra valley. This area served as the core geographical zone where archaeologists have discovered numerous settlements associated with this ceramic tradition. The distribution of these sites across modern-day Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh highlights the regional character of this Iron Age culture during its peak period of development and expansion.

15. (A) It is associated with the use of fine, well-fired grey pottery often painted with geometric patterns.

The Painted Grey Ware culture is distinguished by its namesake pottery, which is wheel-made, thin-walled, and exceptionally well-fired. This ceramic typically features a smooth grey surface decorated with simple black geometric motifs such as dots, lines, and circles. While the culture practiced settled agriculture and utilized iron

technology, it was predominantly a rural, village-based society rather than one characterized by large, fortified urban centers or complex international maritime trade networks.

16. (A) 3, 2, 4, 1

The chronological sequence of ancient Indian cultures begins with the Mature Harappan civilization, which was a Bronze Age urban society. This was followed by the Painted Grey Ware culture in Northern India. In the Peninsular region, the early phase of the Megalithic culture emerged during the Iron Age. Finally, the Northern Black Polished Ware culture developed, marking the period of the second urbanization. This progression reflects the transition from early urbanism to subsequent Iron Age phases.

17. (B) the specific time frame in which this culture flourished.

In archaeology, the term chronology is used to define the temporal boundaries of a specific culture or tradition. For the Painted Grey Ware culture, this involves identifying the era when this fine ceramic tradition was most prevalent, generally placed between the late second and early first millennium BCE. Establishing this timeframe is crucial for understanding the culture's place in history and its relationship with preceding Harappan and succeeding urbanized phases in northern India.

18. (A) Its most distinctive ceramic tradition

Many archaeological cultures are named after their most recognizable material remains. The term Painted Grey Ware specifically refers to the unique type of pottery that serves as the hallmark of this Iron Age society. This ceramic is easily identified by its fine fabric, grey color, and black painted decorations. By using this name, archaeologists emphasize the ceramic technology and aesthetic style that distinguish this group from other contemporary or successive cultures in the subcontinent.

19. (B) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

The Painted Grey Ware culture is primarily found in Northern India, not the Peninsula. Its pottery is technically advanced, being wheel-made and thin-walled with geometric patterns. Archaeologically, it occupies a specific position after the Late Harappan phase and before the Northern Black Polished Ware era in its core region. A defining feature of this culture is the frequent presence of iron artifacts, which indicates that the inhabitants had mastered the skills of iron metallurgy.

20. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The geographical distribution of the Painted Grey Ware culture is largely centered in the upper Ganga basin, western Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana. This culture represents a significant phase of the Iron Age in India, characterized by stable, settled agricultural communities. The use of iron for tools and weapons, alongside the production of distinctive grey pottery, defines the material life of its people. These traits collectively distinguish this culture from the preceding Bronze Age traditions.

21. (C) It is considered contemporary with the Roman Republic.

The Painted Grey Ware culture flourished much earlier than the Roman Republic, typically dating from around 1200 BCE to 600 BCE. It generally follows the Late Harappan phase in the northern regions of the Indian subcontinent and falls firmly within the early Iron Age. This culture is followed by the Northern Black Polished Ware phase. Claiming it was contemporary with the Roman Republic is chronologically incorrect, as that political entity emerged significantly later in history.

22. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Northern Black Polished Ware is recognized for its exceptional technical quality and aesthetic appeal. The pottery features a unique, mirror-like finish that was likely achieved through specialized firing and glazing techniques. Due to the high level of skill required to produce such ware and its relative rarity compared to common pottery, it is classified as a deluxe item. This suggests it was highly valued and probably reserved for the elite sections of early urban society.

23. (D) the first large cities and territorial states (Mahajanapadas).

The Northern Black Polished Ware culture is archaeologically linked to a period of significant

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communities responsible for creating a particular material culture. The debate over the authors of the Megalithic tradition focuses on identifying who these builders were, where they came from, and their linguistic or cultural affiliations. This is a central question in South Indian history because the tradition is so distinct and widespread, yet the identity of its creators remains a complex puzzle.

39. (B) 3, 4 and 5 only

Peninsular Indian Megaliths are primarily known as burial sites rather than habitational settlements. Chronologically, they belong to the Iron Age, not the Bronze Age. Key features include the consistent use of Black and Red Ware pottery and the inclusion of numerous iron objects as grave goods. Their architecture is diverse, including structures like box-like cists, table-like dolmens, and upright menhirs. These findings provide a clear picture of the funerary and technological practices of the time.

40. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Megalithic tradition is found throughout Peninsular India and also has broader geographical connections with similar practices in other parts of the world. Artifacts recovered from these sites, such as various iron tools and a range of ornaments, indicate that these societies possessed advanced knowledge of iron metallurgy. Furthermore, differences in the quantity and quality of grave goods within various burials suggest that there was some level of social hierarchy or stratification among the builders.

41. (C) Cist - A box-like grave made of stone slabs, often buried underground.

In Megalithic terminology, a cist is a specific type of burial chamber constructed from multiple stone slabs arranged in a box-like shape, usually placed beneath the ground. A Menhir is actually a single upright stone monolith, while a dolmen is a structure with upright stones supporting a horizontal capstone. A port-hole is an opening or window cut into one of the slabs of a cist or dolmen, intended to allow for multiple burials or offerings.

42. (A) Megalithic culture.

A burial found on the Deccan plateau that includes a human skeleton along with iron weapons like swords and arrowheads is a hallmark of the Megalithic culture. The presence of distinctive Black and Red Ware pottery further confirms this identification. This culture is uniquely defined by its focus on funerary monuments and the use of iron technology. These features distinguish it from the urban Harappan civilization, the rural PGW culture of the north, and the earlier Neolithic period.

43. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

The chronological context of the Megalithic culture places it within the Iron Age, often overlapping with the Early Historic period. Typology involves classifying the various tomb structures, such as cists and dolmens. Cultural artifacts recovered from these burials typically include iron daggers and Black and Red Ware pottery. The geographical spread of this tradition is quite extensive, covering large parts of Peninsular India and beyond. Correctly aligning these features provides a comprehensive view of the tradition.

44. (B) Black and Red Ware

While several types of pottery existed during the Iron Age, Black and Red Ware is the ceramic most consistently associated with Megalithic burials in Peninsular India. This pottery is characterized by its unique firing technique, which results in a black interior and rim with a red exterior. Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware are primarily northern traditions, while Ochre Coloured Pottery belongs to an earlier period. Black and Red Ware serves as a diagnostic marker for Megaliths.

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45. (C) Its chronology is well-established and uniform across all regions.

While many aspects of the Megalithic culture are well-documented, its chronology is not uniform or perfectly established across all regions. Different sites in Peninsular India show varying dates, indicating that the tradition spanned a long period and developed at different times in different areas. The culture does have a wide geographical spread and diverse burial types, and the use of iron is a key feature. However,

were primarily settled agriculturalists who benefited from new metallurgical advancements.

31. (A) Northern Black Polished Ware

Pottery that is exceptionally fine, well-fired, and possesses a highly lustrous, mirror-like black sheen is characteristic of the Northern Black Polished Ware. Found prominently in the Ganga Valley and dated to the mid-first millennium BCE, this ware serves as a marker for the Early Historic period. Its specialized manufacturing process distinguishes it from the Painted Grey Ware, which is typically matte grey, and other traditions like Black and Red Ware or Ochre Coloured Pottery.

32. (B) elaborate funerary monuments.

The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India is primarily identified through its distinctive and elaborate burial practices. Builders used large stones, or megaliths, to construct various types of monuments, such as cists, dolmens, and stone circles, to mark graves. These funerary structures are much more prominent than evidence of large urban layouts during this period. The culture is further characterized by the inclusion of numerous iron artifacts and specific pottery types as offerings for the deceased.

33. (B) classification of different types of Megalithic burials and monuments.

In the study of Megalithic traditions, typology is the method used to categorize the wide variety of stone structures based on their physical form and construction techniques. This includes distinguishing between simple pit burials, box-like cists, table-like dolmens, and upright menhirs. By classifying these different types, archaeologists can better understand regional variations, cultural preferences, and the evolving architectural styles within the Megalithic communities that inhabited the Peninsular region during the Iron Age.

34. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India is firmly categorized within the Iron Age because of the consistent presence of iron technology. Excavations of Megalithic graves across the region have revealed a vast array of iron implements, including swords, daggers, arrowheads, and agricultural tools. These artifacts demonstrate that iron was central to their material culture. Therefore, the abundance of metal finds provides the primary archaeological justification for dating this tradition to the Iron Age period.

35. (C) It is found extensively across Peninsular India and has parallels in other parts of the world.

The Megalithic tradition is a widespread phenomenon that is found throughout various parts of Peninsular India, including modern-day Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. It is not restricted to a single state or the Ganga Valley. Furthermore, the practice of erecting large stone monuments for the dead is not unique to India; similar Megalithic structures have been discovered in many other regions of the world, reflecting a global architectural and funerary trend.

36. (D) Terracotta seals with Harappan script

Megalithic burials are known for containing a variety of grave goods, such as iron weapons like daggers and spears, beads made from semi-precious stones, and distinctive Black and Red Ware pottery. However, terracotta seals with Harappan script are exclusively associated with the Bronze Age Indus Valley Civilization. There is a significant chronological and geographical gap between the Harappan culture and the Iron Age Megalithic tradition, making such seals absent from these later burial contexts.

37. (A) 2, 4, 3, 1

The classification of Megalithic monuments often follows a sequence from simpler markers to more complex subterranean structures. A Menhir is a simple upright stone monolith. This is followed by pit burials, which are basic graves dug into the earth. More complex are dolmenoid cists, which involve stone slabs partially above ground. The most intricate structures include cist burials with port-holes, requiring advanced stone-cutting and engineering to create accessible, box-like chambers made of multiple slabs.

38. (B) identity and origins of the people who built these monuments.

In archaeological studies, the term authors refers to the specific group of people or ethnic

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political and social transformation. This era witnessed the rise of the first large, fortified cities in the Ganga Valley and the consolidation of powerful territorial states known as Mahajanapadas. This phase, often called the Second Urbanization, represents a move away from simpler rural settlements toward complex urban societies. The lustrous pottery serves as a diagnostic marker for this advanced historical stage.

24. (A) It has a distinctive glossy black surface, sometimes in other shades, with a metallic sheen.

Northern Black Polished Ware is celebrated for its remarkable technological sophistication. Its most defining feature is a very thin, well-fired fabric covered with a highly lustrous, jet-black slip that gives it a mirror-like or metallic appearance. While black is the most common color, variations in silvery or golden hues also exist. This high-quality ceramic was wheel-made and typically used for small, elegant shapes like bowls and dishes rather than large burial monuments.

25. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Hasthinapur is a famous type-site for the Painted Grey Ware culture, while Kausambi is a major urban center characterized by Northern Black Polished Ware. In Peninsular India, Hallur provides significant evidence of the early Iron Age. Arikamedu, located on the Coromandel Coast, is renowned as an important maritime trading station with links to the Mediterranean. Correctly matching these sites with their primary cultural associations is essential for understanding the diverse archaeological landscape of ancient India.

26. (A) The extreme southern tip of Peninsular India as a primary zone

The Northern Black Polished Ware culture was primarily centered in the Ganga Valley and extended into Central and Eastern India. While sherds of this ware have been found in the south due to trade, the extreme southern tip of the peninsula was not part of its primary core zone. Instead, the southern regions during this period were more characterized by the Megalithic tradition. The NBPW culture is fundamentally associated with the urbanization of Northern India.

27. (B) Early Historic period.

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The Northern Black Polished Ware culture belongs to the Early Historic period, a time characterized by the emergence of writing, coinage, and complex state structures. This phase generally spans from approximately 600 BCE to 100 BCE. It represents a significant advancement over the preceding Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and early Iron Age phases. The presence of this lustrous pottery is one of the key archaeological indicators used to define the start of this historical era in South Asia.

28. (B) 2 and 4 only

In the stratigraphic sequences of the Ganga Valley, Northern Black Polished Ware consistently appears above Painted Grey Ware, proving it is chronologically later. This ware is famously associated with the rise of the first urban centers and expanding trade networks. However, the term Northern is somewhat misleading as the ware spread far beyond North India. Additionally, NBPW is known for its very fine, thin fabric rather than a thick, heavy, or gritty texture.

29. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Northern Black Polished Ware represents a pinnacle of ancient ceramic technology due to its unique lustrous finish. Furthermore, the find-spots of this ware are much more geographically widespread compared to those of the earlier Painted Grey Ware. This extensive distribution indicates that trade and communication networks were expanding significantly during the Early Historic period. The presence of NBPW across various regions highlights its role as a high-value commodity in a growing economy.

30. (D) Early Iron Age - Complete absence of agriculture

The early Iron Age was not a period characterized by the absence of agriculture. On the contrary, the introduction of iron tools like axes and ploughshares actually facilitated the expansion of farming by allowing for easier land clearance and soil preparation. While PGW is associated with iron and painted pottery, NBPW with luxury ceramics, and Megalithic culture with large stone monuments, the early Iron Age communities

the exact timeline remains a subject of ongoing archaeological research and debate.

46. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only

The emergence of urban centers in the Ganga Valley was driven by several interconnected factors. The adoption of iron technology led to an increased agricultural surplus, which supported a growing population. This surplus allowed for the growth of craft specialization and the expansion of trade networks, both inland and maritime. Conversely, the period did not see a decline in currency; instead, it witnessed the first widespread use of punch-marked coins, which facilitated commerce in these new urban hubs.

47. (A) growth of large, densely populated settlements with non-agrarian functions.

Urbanization during the Early Historic period is defined by the development of major settlements that served as centers for activities other than just farming. These urban hubs became focal points for administration, trade, and specialized crafts. Unlike small rural villages, these cities were characterized by larger, denser populations and often featured monumental architecture and fortifications. This transition reflects a fundamental change in social and economic organization, moving toward a more complex and interconnected society across the Indian subcontinent.

48. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

During the Early Historic period, the growth of new cities and the expansion of trade were mutually reinforcing processes. The development of urban centers created a concentrated demand for various raw materials and finished goods. This demand was met because iron-age agricultural techniques produced enough surplus food to support merchants and artisans. This economic environment naturally encouraged the establishment of trade routes, connecting different regions to facilitate the exchange of goods and ideas across the subcontinent.

49. (B) a combination of agriculture, craft production, and trade.

The economy of the Early Historic period was not limited to a single activity. Instead, it relied on multiple modes of production that functioned simultaneously. While agriculture remained the primary foundation, the rise of cities led to specialized craft production, such as metallurgy and pottery. This diversity was further enhanced by growing trade networks that linked rural producers with urban consumers and connected different regions. This multi-faceted economic structure supported the complex social and political developments of the era.

50. (A) They represent a mix of urban centres, trade posts, and settlements with specific features from various regions.

The Early Historic period was marked by a diverse landscape of settlements rather than a single uniform type. Across the subcontinent, one finds large urban hubs, specialized trading posts, and regional settlements that developed according to local resources and needs. While the Ganga Valley was a major area of urbanization, Peninsular India also saw the growth of significant centers linked to trade. This variety reflects a complex economic system that utilized different environments and fostered regional specialization.

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51. (C) A decline in population

The growth of urban centers in the Ganga Valley was actually supported by a population increase rather than a decline. Technological advancements, such as the use of iron tools for clearing forests and improving agriculture, created a surplus that could sustain more people. This population growth provided the labor needed for craft specialization and the organization of trade. Together, these factors contributed to the development of complex, densely populated urban areas that defined the Early Historic period.

52. (D) the emergence of writing, coinage, and urbanism post-PGW phase.

The Early Historic period in India is traditionally marked by a set of transformative social and economic developments that followed the Painted Grey Ware phase. These include the first widespread appearance of writing systems, the introduction of standardized punch-marked coinage, and the rise of the first large cities since the Harappan decline. This era represents a

The introduction of iron technology provided tools that were much stronger and more durable than previous stone or copper implements. In the Ganga Valley, iron axes were essential for clearing the thick subtropical forests to create new farmland. Additionally, iron-tipped ploughs allowed for deeper and more effective cultivation of the heavy soil. These advancements directly led to a massive increase in food production, creating the agricultural surplus necessary to support growing populations and the rise of urbanism.

83. (B) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1

Painted Grey Ware is a fine grey ceramic with black designs found in the northern plains. Northern Black Polished Ware is a high-quality, lustrous pottery associated with early urbanization. Black and Red Ware is the hallmark ceramic of the Peninsular Indian Megalithic burials. Rouletted Ware is a distinctive type associated with maritime trade at sites like Arikamedu. Correctly matching these wares with their characteristics is vital for identifying the cultural and economic contexts of different archaeological sites.

84. (D) Uttar Pradesh

Raja Nal-ka-tila is an important archaeological site situated in the Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. It has gained historical prominence due to excavations that revealed very early evidence of iron smelting and artifacts. These finds are significant because they suggest that iron technology was being practiced in the northern part of India much earlier than previously assumed. Along with other nearby sites, it has played a key role in revising the antiquity of the Iron Age.

85. (C) The use of iron in India began only after the arrival of Alexander the Great.

The claim that iron use in India began only after Alexander the Great's arrival in the 4th century BCE is historically incorrect. Archaeological evidence from numerous sites, including those of the PGW culture and Megalithic traditions, proves that iron technology was well-established in the subcontinent several centuries before that time. The NBPW phase represents the peak of the Iron Age, and the beginnings of iron use in both the north and south are far more ancient than the Macedonian invasion.

86. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1

The chronological sequence of these sites begins with Malhar, which provides some of the earliest evidence for iron use in India. This is followed by Hasthinapur, a major center for the early Iron Age Painted Grey Ware culture. Kausambi then represents the subsequent Early Historic period characterized by Northern Black Polished Ware and urbanization. Finally, Arikamedu represents a later phase of the Early Historic period, famous for its established maritime trade links with the Roman world.

87. (D) A PGW-dominant site and an NBPW-dominant site

To understand the transition from rural to urban life in the Ganga Valley, comparing PGW and NBPW sites is essential. The Painted Grey Ware culture represents a predominantly rural, agrarian stage of the early Iron Age. In contrast, the Northern Black Polished Ware culture is directly associated with the rise of the first large cities and complex economic systems. By examining the differences in settlement size, architecture, and artifacts between these two phases, researchers can trace the process of urbanization.

88. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The development of urban centers in Peninsular India was not entirely independent of the events in the Ganga Valley. While each region had its own local drivers, they were connected by extensive inland and maritime trade routes. These pathways allowed for the exchange of goods, technologies, and cultural ideas, ensuring that developments in one area often influenced the other. Therefore, the two regions were part of a larger, interconnected economic and cultural network during the Early Historic period.

89. (A) 1, 2 and 4 only

Taxila was a vital city in the northwest, Sisupalgarh is famous for its fortifications in Odisha, and Mathura and Ujjain were major urban hubs. These cities illustrate the widespread nature of urbanization during the Early Historic period. However, the growth of these cities was deeply linked to economic factors like trade and agricultural surplus. Furthermore, urban centers

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early historic fortified cities in India. The site is particularly famous for its unique and highly organized square layout, protected by massive earthen and brick walls. This architectural feature suggests a high degree of urban planning and central authority. While it was a major center in ancient Kalinga, it was not the capital of Magadha, nor was it primarily a port or a PGW site.

61. (A) 2, 4, 1, 3

The correct chronological order of these events begins with the flourishing of Mohenjo-Daro during the Mature Harappan period. This was followed by the dominance of the Painted Grey Ware culture at sites like Hastinapur during the early Iron Age. Later, urban centers like Kausambi emerged as major hubs of the Northern Black Polished Ware culture during the Early Historic period. Finally, the establishment of the colonial city of Calcutta occurred much later during the modern British period.

62. (D) prominent urban centres of the Early Historic period.

Rajghat, Ujjain, and Vaisali are all significant archaeological sites that represent the growth of urbanization during the Early Historic period. Rajghat is the ancient site of Varanasi, while Ujjain was a key commercial hub in Malwa, and Vaisali served as a major republican capital. These sites are notable for their dense populations, monumental architecture, and their roles as centers of political, economic, and cultural activity. They reflect the complex urban life that developed following the earlier rural phases.

63. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Mathura was a pivotal urban center because of its geographic advantages and subsequent cultural growth. Situated at the junction of several major trade routes, it became a thriving commercial hub connecting different parts of the subcontinent. This economic vitality supported its development into a renowned center for various religions and arts, particularly the famous Mathura school of sculpture. Therefore, its strategic location was a direct and primary cause of its prominence as a major historical and cultural city.

64. (B) Hallur

Sravasti, Kausambi, and Ujjain were all prominent urban centers and capitals of important kingdoms during the Early Historic period. In contrast, Hallur is an archaeological site primarily known for its early Iron Age and Neolithic-Chalcolithic evidence. While Hallur is significant for understanding the transition to metallurgy in Peninsular India, it does not fit the category of a major fortified city or a regional political capital like the others mentioned. It represents an earlier, less urbanized stage of settlement.

65. (C) 1, 2 and 3 only

Kausambi was the capital of the Vatsa kingdom, Sravasti served as the capital of Kosala, and Vaisali was the famous center of the Lichchhavis. These cities were all key political and economic hubs during the Early Historic period. However, all three are located in Northern India, specifically within the Ganga Valley and the surrounding plains. They are not situated in Peninsular India. Correctly identifying their geographical and political contexts is essential for understanding ancient Indian regional history.

66. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Rajghat is the ancient archaeological site of Varanasi, providing a continuous record of occupation from the Northern Black Polished Ware period into later eras. This indicates its long-standing importance as a center of human activity. Similarly, Ujjain was a vital city in Central India, serving as both a political capital for the Avanti kingdom and a major commercial hub. Both sites illustrate the development of stable, long-lasting urban centers that played crucial roles in the history of ancient India.

67. (C) Sisupalgarh - Bihar

The archaeological site of Sisupalgarh is actually located in the state of Odisha, near the modern capital of Bhubaneswar. It is not in Bihar. In contrast, Taxila is situated in modern-day Pakistan, Ujjain is a well-known city in Madhya Pradesh, and Vaisali is an important historical site in Bihar. Misidentifying the location of Sisupalgarh overlooks its significance as a major

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significant shift toward complex state societies and a more organized economic system, distinguishing it clearly from the preceding proto-historic and prehistoric periods.

53. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Urbanization in different parts of India was driven by distinct factors. In the fertile Ganga Valley, the massive agricultural surplus produced by the rich alluvial soil and iron technology supported large urban populations. In contrast, many early cities in Peninsular India emerged specifically because they were located at the junctions of major trade routes or near sources of precious raw materials. Both these processes highlights how different geographical environments shaped the growth and function of urban centers.

54. (B) Maritime trade

The discovery of Roman coins at coastal sites and the mention of Indian goods in Roman historical texts provide direct evidence of long-distance sea commerce. These findings confirm that ancient India was actively engaged in a vibrant maritime trade network with the Mediterranean world during the Early Historic period. This exchange involved the export of items like spices and textiles in return for gold, wine, and other luxury goods, significantly impacting the regional economies.

55. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

The Early Historic economy was characterized by diversity and growth. It featured multiple production modes, including agriculture and specialized crafts. Trade routes expanded to connect various regions, and maritime commerce became a vital component of the overall economic system. New urban centers served as the primary hubs for these activities. Contrary to reverting to simple barter, this period actually saw the introduction and widespread use of coinage, which facilitated more complex and far-reaching commercial transactions.

56. (A) trade routes.

As commerce expanded during the Early Historic period, regular paths for the movement of goods and merchants became established. These are referred to as trade routes, which could be either terrestrial or maritime. Major land routes connected the Ganga Valley with the northwest and the Deccan, while sea routes linked coastal ports with foreign markets. These pathways were essential for economic integration, allowing for the consistent exchange of commodities, technologies, and cultural ideas across vast distances.

57. (C) The process was uniform and identical in both the Ganga Valley and Peninsular India.

The emergence of urbanism in India was not a single, uniform process. While the Ganga Valley urbanization was largely driven by agricultural surplus in the plains, the process in Peninsular India was often more closely tied to maritime trade and access to specific minerals or forest products. Although both regions saw the rise of cities and were influenced by the NBPW cultural phase, the specific economic drivers and societal structures varied significantly based on local geographical and cultural contexts.

58. (B) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

Taxila was a famous center of learning at the crossroads of major trade routes in the northwest. Ujjain served as a vital political and astronomical center in Central India. Sisupalgarh is notable for its well-planned square fortifications in ancient Kalinga. Mathura was an important religious and artistic hub and a capital for the Kushanas. Correctly matching these cities with their unique descriptions provides a clear overview of the diverse urban landscape during the Early Historic period.

59. (D) Taxila

Taxila was a prominent ancient city located in the Gandhara region, near modern-day Rawalpindi in Pakistan. It was strategically situated at the junction of three major trade routes, making it a cosmopolitan center for commerce and culture. Most importantly, Taxila was renowned throughout the subcontinent as a premier seat of higher learning and education. Scholars and students traveled from across the region to study at its famous university, making it a vital intellectual hub of the time.

60. (B) It is known for its impressive square-shaped fortification.

Sisupalgarh, located near Bhubaneswar in modern Odisha, is one of the best-preserved

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hallmark of a complex and highly developed historical period.

75. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Pattanam, a site on the Malabar Coast of Kerala, has become a central focus for studying ancient maritime trade. Excavations there have uncovered significant evidence of Mediterranean contacts, including Roman pottery and beads, similar to the finds at Arikamedu. This archaeological data confirms that Pattanam was an active participant in the long-distance sea trade between India and the Roman world. Therefore, the physical evidence found at the site provides the necessary foundation for its historical importance.

76. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Atiranjikhera and Hasthinapur are two of the most important archaeological sites for understanding the Painted Grey Ware culture in North India. They have provided critical evidence for early iron use and settled life. Similarly, Chandarketugarh in West Bengal is highly significant for its discovery of exquisite terracotta artwork and evidence of maritime and inland trade. Both statements correctly identify the primary historical and archaeological value of these diverse sites in different regions of the Indian subcontinent.

77. (C) Khairadih is a well-known Indo-Roman port on the west coast.

Khairadih is an archaeological site located in the interior of eastern Uttar Pradesh, not a port on the west coast. It is significant for its cultural sequence involving the NBPW and later periods, but it was not involved in direct maritime trade with Rome. In contrast, Kodumanal is known for its gem industry, Satanikota was a fortified settlement in the Deccan, and Nasik is famous for its historical rock-cut caves. Misplacing Khairadih overlooks its true inland character.

78. (A) 1 and 3 only

Ahichhatra was indeed the prominent capital of North Panchala in the Ganga Valley. Similarly, Adam in Maharashtra has provided significant evidence of an early fortified settlement from the historical period. However, Nagarjunakonda is primarily famous as a major center of Buddhism, not Jainism. Furthermore, while many of these sites were urban, not all historical sites listed in general archeology fit a strict urban definition. Therefore, only the first and third statements are historically accurate regarding these locations.

79. (A) Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware

Hasthinapur is a crucial archaeological site because its stratigraphic layers show a clear progression of cultures. Excavations there revealed a significant sequence where the Painted Grey Ware culture is followed by the Northern Black Polished Ware phase. This transition is essential for establishing the relative chronology of the Iron Age in the Ganga Valley. It allows historians to trace the evolution from a rural, village-based society into a more complex, urbanized civilization with advanced ceramic technology.

80. (B) Atiranjikhera - Evidence of early iron use in a PGW context

Atiranjikhera is particularly significant in Indian archaeology because it yielded some of the earliest and most definitive evidence for the use of iron within the Painted Grey Ware cultural level. This discovery helped establish the link between this pottery tradition and the early Iron Age. Other pairings are incorrect: Sringaverpura is known for water management rather than being a sea port, Nagarjunakonda is a Buddhist center, and Pattanam was a trade port, not the Mauryan capital.

81. (B) objects made or modified by humans, such as pottery, tools, and ornaments.

In archaeology, the term cultural artefacts refers to the physical objects that people created, used, or altered. During the Iron Age, this includes a wide range of items such as ceramic vessels, iron tools and weapons, and decorative ornaments like beads. These objects are essential for researchers because they provide direct evidence of the technological skills, economic activities, and artistic styles of ancient societies. They are distinct from natural features or purely skeletal remains, representing human manufacture.

82. (A) the clearance of dense forests and generation of a larger agricultural surplus.

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often used for funerary purposes. Maritime trade refers to commerce conducted over sea routes. Correctly matching these terms with their descriptions is essential for understanding the material culture and economic activities that defined different phases of ancient Indian history.

112. (B) Maharashtra

Adam is a significant archaeological site located in the Nagpur district of Maharashtra. It has provided important evidence of a fortified settlement dating back to the late proto-historic and early historic periods. Excavations at the site have revealed a variety of artifacts, including pottery, coins, and seals, which help researchers understand the early phases of urbanization and social organization in the Vidarbha region. Its discovery has added valuable information to the archaeological map of Central India.

113. (B) Hallur - NBPW type-site

Hallur is primarily famous as an archaeological site that provides evidence for the early Iron Age and its overlap with the preceding Neolithic-Chalcolithic phase in Peninsular India. It is not considered a type-site for Northern Black Polished Ware, which is a later ceramic tradition centered in the Ganga Valley. In contrast, Malhar is correctly associated with early iron evidence, Sravasti is an important city site, and Kodumanal is a major Iron Age and early historic site in the Peninsula.

114. (A) 2, 3, 1, 4

The chronological arrangement of cultural phenomena in India shows a complex overlap. Megalithic burials in the Peninsula represent an early transition into the Iron Age. This was followed by the widespread use of Painted Grey Ware in the northern plains. Subsequently, the Second Urbanization emerged in the Ganga Valley, marked by the rise of cities. Finally, maritime activities like Indo-Roman trade at Arikamedu characterized the Early Historic period. This sequence illustrates the gradual technological and social development across various regions.

115. (C) definitively links the early use of iron with a specific cultural phase in the Ganga Valley.

The discovery of iron tools and weapons within the Painted Grey Ware layers at Atiranjikhera was a landmark event in Indian archaeology. It provided clear, stratigraphic evidence that the people of the PGW culture were among the first in the Ganga Valley to master iron metallurgy. This finding helped researchers define the beginning of the Iron Age in the region and linked a specific pottery style to a major technological advancement. It remains a foundational piece of evidence for the period.

116. (D) Stupa

Dolmens, cists, and menhirs are all classic types of Megalithic monuments made from large stones, primarily used for marking burials or as memorials during the Iron Age. A stupa, however, is a different type of structure altogether. Stupas are hemispherical mounds traditionally used in Buddhism to house sacred relics or as commemorative monuments. While some early stupas might have evolved from burial mounds, they belong to a distinct religious and architectural tradition that flourished later during the Early Historic period.

117. (C) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Nasik is indeed famous for its Satavahana-era caves, and Satanikota was a fortified town on the Tungabhadra. Khairadih has provided evidence of NBPW culture, and Ahichhatra was a capital of the Panchala kingdom. However, Chandarketugarh is located in modern-day West Bengal, not in the Ganga-Yamuna doab of North India. Therefore, while most of these statements about individual sites are correct, the geographical claim for Chandarketugarh is inaccurate, making the third statement incorrect in that context.

118. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.

The Northern Black Polished Ware is found across a much larger geographical area than the Painted Grey Ware, reflecting the expansion of trade during the Early Historic period. However, the production of NBPW was not simpler. In fact, achieving its unique lustrous, mirror-like finish required very sophisticated firing techniques and a high level of specialized skill. This suggests that NBPW was a more technically advanced ceramic

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were not limited to the Ganga Valley; they also flourished in the Peninsula and other regions, as seen with Sisupalgarh and various southern ports.

90. (A) a cultural phase largely represented by the Megalithic tradition.

In Peninsular India, the Iron Age is best defined through the widespread Megalithic tradition. This culture is characterized by its unique funerary monuments made of large stones and the consistent presence of iron tools and weapons. While other cultures like the NBPW also existed during the Iron Age, the Megalithic tradition is the most distinctive and ubiquitous marker for this period in the southern regions. It represents a significant departure from earlier Neolithic practices and established a new social order.

91. (D) It is chronologically associated with the emergence of the Mahajanapadas and second urbanisation.

The Northern Black Polished Ware culture is a key marker for a period of major historical change. It coincides with the rise of powerful territorial states known as Mahajanapadas and the second major wave of urbanization in Indian history. This phase is characterized by advanced ceramic technology, the widespread use of iron, and the growth of large, fortified cities. This ware is known for its high-quality finish and extensive geographical distribution, reflecting the sophisticated and interconnected nature of Early Historic society.

92. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Megalithic monuments of Peninsular India exhibit a wide range of architectural forms, demonstrating significant typological diversity. This variety includes box-like cists, table-like dolmens, upright menhirs, and stone circles. This diversity is not accidental but reflects the different local customs, social practices, and environmental conditions of the various communities that built them. Therefore, the many physical types of monuments serve as direct evidence for the diverse cultural landscape within the broader Megalithic tradition across the southern region.

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93. (C) West Bengal

Chandarketugarh is an important archaeological site located in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, near Kolkata. It has yielded a wealth of artifacts from the Early Historic period, including beautiful terracotta plaques, coins, and pottery. The site provides evidence of a thriving urban center with strong trade links, both inland and maritime. Its discoveries are essential for understanding the historical and cultural development of the lower Ganga delta and its connection to broader regional networks.

94. (D) Atiranjikhera

While Vaisali, Sravasti, and Mathura are primarily recognized as major political capitals and urban hubs of the Early Historic period, Atiranjikhera is most famous for its rich archaeological sequence. It is particularly noted for providing extensive evidence of the Painted Grey Ware culture and the transition into the later NBPW phase. Although it was a significant settlement, its scholarly importance lies more in its cultural and technological data, especially regarding early iron use, than in being a major imperial capital.

95. (B) 2 and 4 only

The Megalithic culture is indeed primarily identified through its unique and diverse burial practices using large stones. Furthermore, iron technology was a central and defining feature of both the Northern Painted Grey Ware culture and the Peninsular Megalithic tradition. However, PGW is not a Mauryan luxury ceramic; that description fits NBPW. Also, NBPW had a much wider distribution than PGW, not a more limited one. Thus, only the statements about Megalithic identity and iron use are correct.

96. (B) Sringaverpura - Hydraulic engineering

Sringaverpura, located in Uttar Pradesh, is uniquely famous for its sophisticated ancient water management system. Excavations revealed a massive, multi-tank hydraulic complex designed to divert and store water from the Ganga River, demonstrating advanced engineering skills. Other pairings are incorrect: Hasthinapur is a PGW/NBPW site, not primarily Megalithic; Arikamedu is an Indo-Roman trade port, not a PGW site; and Ujjain is a historical city known

for trade and astronomy, not for being a primary source of Harappan seals.

97. (B) Arikamedu and Pattanam

For a historian focusing on ancient maritime trade in South India, Arikamedu and Pattanam are the two most critical sites to investigate. Arikamedu, on the east coast, and Pattanam, on the west coast, have both yielded extensive archaeological evidence of Mediterranean contacts. This includes Roman coins, pottery like amphorae and Arretine ware, and other imported goods. These findings provide direct proof of the scale and nature of long-distance sea commerce that connected South India with the broader Roman world.

98. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Kodumanal is a significant Iron Age and early historic site located in Tamil Nadu. Adam is an important fortified settlement situated in Maharashtra. Khairadih is an archaeological site found in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Sisupalgarh is famous for its early historic fortifications near Bhubaneswar in Odisha. Correctly matching these sites with their respective modern states is essential for understanding the regional distribution of important archaeological remains across the different parts of the Indian subcontinent.

99. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Painted Grey Ware culture is widely recognized as the first major cultural phase in the Ganga Valley that utilized iron technology on a significant scale. This association is supported by archaeological finds from numerous locations. Specifically, the site of Atiranjikhera has provided clear stratigraphic evidence of iron tools and weapons within its PGW layers. These discoveries have been instrumental in helping historians understand the transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age in the northern plains of India.

100. (D) the specific time period during which these monuments were constructed.

In archaeology, the term chronological context refers to the placement of a culture or tradition within a specific timeline. For the Megalithic culture, this means identifying the exact era when these large stone monuments were built and used, generally spanning from the late second millennium BCE into the early centuries CE. Establishing this timeframe is crucial for understanding how the tradition relates to other contemporary cultures and how it evolved over several centuries across various parts of India.

101. (C) Nagarjunakonda

Nagarjunakonda, located in modern-day Andhra Pradesh, was one of the most important and thriving centers of Buddhism in South India. Situated in the fertile Krishna River valley, the site once housed numerous stupas, monasteries, and temples. It is named after the famous Buddhist philosopher Nagarjuna, who is traditionally associated with the area. The site served as a major intellectual and religious hub during the early centuries CE, attracting monks and scholars from across the Buddhist world.

102. (A) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Hallur and Kumaranahalli are vital for understanding early iron in the Peninsula, while Atiranjikhera provides a complete cultural sequence including PGW and NBPW. Satanikota was a fortified settlement in the Deccan, and Kodumanal is significant for early iron and craft. However, Dadupur and Raja Nal-ka-tila are located in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, not in South India. Therefore, most of these statements are correct except for the geographical placement of the northern sites.

103. (D) This urbanization was a sudden event with no preceding cultural developments.

The urbanization of the Ganga Valley, often called the Second Urbanization, was not a sudden or isolated event. Instead, it was the culmination of long-term cultural and technological developments, including the preceding Painted Grey Ware phase. This process was supported by the adoption of iron technology, which produced the agricultural surplus needed for urban growth. The NBPW served as a luxury ceramic within this evolving society, which was also characterized by expanding trade networks and increasingly complex political organizations.

104. (A) early Iron Age in the Ganga basin and the setting of the later Vedic period.

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The Painted Grey Ware culture is historically significant because it represents the early Iron Age phase in the northern Ganga plains. Archaeologists often associate this material culture with the geographical and temporal setting described in later Vedic literature. It marks the transition from simpler agricultural communities toward more organized social structures. While it predates the Mauryan Empire and is distinct from maritime trade networks, its role in establishing the foundation for later historical developments in North India is paramount.

105. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Atiranjikhera holds a position of great importance in Indian archaeology because of its exceptionally long and clear cultural sequence. Most notably, excavations there have provided some of the earliest and most definitive evidence for the use of iron technology in the Ganga Valley. These iron finds were discovered within the Painted Grey Ware levels, helping to firmly link this ceramic tradition with the dawn of the Iron Age. This discovery is a primary reason why the site is considered essential.

106. (A) Large Stone

The word Megalithic is derived from the Greek terms megas, meaning large, and lithos, meaning stone. Therefore, it literally translates to Large Stone. In an archaeological context, this term is used to describe a culture or tradition characterized by the construction of monuments and burial sites using massive stones. These structures, such as dolmens and menhirs, are found in many parts of the world, including India, and serve as prominent markers of ancient technological and funerary practices.

107. (D) New evidence from sites like Malhar suggests a much earlier beginning of the Iron Age in India.

Recent archaeological research has significantly revised the timeline for the introduction of iron in the Indian subcontinent. Discoveries at sites like Malhar in the Ganga Valley have provided radiocarbon dates that push the start of iron technology back to the early second millennium BCE. This evidence proves that iron was present in India much earlier than previously thought and was not introduced by foreign invaders like the Greeks. These findings highlights the indigenous and ancient roots of metallurgy.

108. (A) 1 and 3 only

Ujjain was a vital commercial hub situated on a major trade route connecting the north and south, while Rajghat is indeed the ancient archaeological site of Varanasi. These two statements are historically accurate. However, Vaisali was the capital of a famous republican confederacy (the Lichchhavis), not a monarchical kingdom. Additionally, Sravasti was an extremely important and prosperous city during the time of the Buddha, serving as a major center for his teachings and a regional capital.

109. (B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.

The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India is not characterized by a single, uniform burial type; instead, it exhibits a wide variety of forms like cists, dolmens, and stone circles. Furthermore, these burials are famous for containing a rich assortment of grave goods, including numerous iron tools and weapons. They are far from being aceramic or devoid of metal. The diversity in monument types and the abundance of metal artifacts are two of the most defining and well-documented features of this tradition.

110. (D) an agricultural surplus that freed a section of the population for non-food producing activities.

The emergence of specialized crafts like pottery, metallurgy, and bead-making was a direct result of increased agricultural efficiency. When farmers produced more food than they needed for their own survival, this surplus could support other members of society who did not farm. These individuals were then able to dedicate their time to mastering specific skills and producing various goods. This transition from subsistence to a surplus-based economy was a fundamental step in the development of complex urban societies and trade.

111. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Painted Grey Ware is a distinctive painted ceramic from the early Iron Age in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab. Northern Black Polished Ware is a lustrous, high-quality pottery from the Mahajanapada period. A Megalith is a large stone monument,

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urban and fortified center of the ancient Kalinga region on the eastern coast of India.

68. (D) An important city site like Kausambi.

A site featuring massive brick fortifications, dense population remains, punch-marked coins, and numerous Northern Black Polished Ware sherds is a classic example of an Early Historic urban center. Kausambi is one of the most prominent sites that matches this description. These features reflect a high degree of political organization, economic complexity through trade and coinage, and the advanced ceramic technology of the period. This represents a mature stage of urbanization far beyond simpler rural or smelting settlements.

69. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Arikamedu is famous as an Indo-Roman trading station on the Coromandel Coast. Sringaverpura is noted for its highly advanced ancient hydraulic system. Nagarjunakonda was a significant Buddhist center in the Krishna Valley, named after the renowned philosopher Nagarjuna. Hasthinapur is a major Painted Grey Ware site traditionally linked to the Mahabharata epic. Correctly matching these sites with their unique features highlights the diverse cultural, economic, and technological achievements that occurred during different phases of Indian history.

70. (B) Arikamedu

Arikamedu, located near Puducherry on the southeastern coast, is the most well-known Indo-Roman trading port in India. Excavations at the site have yielded a wealth of artifacts from the Mediterranean, including Roman pottery like Arretine ware and amphorae, which were used for transporting wine and oil. These finds provide definitive archaeological evidence of regular maritime contact between ancient India and the Roman Empire. This trade was a crucial part of the economy during the Early Historic period.

71. (A) They represent a mix of urban centres, trade posts, and settlements with specific features from various regions.

The archaeological record of ancient India reveals a diverse array of settlement types that emerged for different functional reasons. Some sites developed as large political and administrative hubs, while others functioned primarily as coastal trading posts or specialized manufacturing centers. This diversity was shaped by regional geography, available resources, and proximity to trade routes. Understanding this variety is essential for grasping the complex socioeconomic dynamics of the period, as no single settlement type defined the entire historical landscape.

72. (C) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Arikamedu and Pattanam were indeed vital for maritime trade, while Hasthinapur and Atiranjikhera are key Painted Grey Ware sites. Sringaverpura is celebrated for its hydraulic engineering, and Nagarjunakonda was a famous Buddhist center. However, these sites are not all located in Uttar Pradesh. For instance, Arikamedu is in Puducherry, Pattanam is in Kerala, and Nagarjunakonda is in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, while their individual historical significance is correctly stated, their geographical grouping in one state is incorrect.

73. (C) Ahichhatra

Nasik, Adam, and Satanikota are all significant historical sites located within the geographical region of Peninsular India, covering parts of modern Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Ahichhatra, however, is located in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh and served as the ancient capital of North Panchala. It is situated in the Ganga Valley region rather than the southern peninsula. Distinguishing between northern and peninsular sites is important for understanding the regional development of early urban and cultural traditions.

74. (A) the functional specialization and diversity of settlements in the historical period.

The existence of sites with very different primary roles, such as the advanced water management at Sringaverpura and the international maritime commerce at Arikamedu, demonstrates that ancient settlements were not uniform. Instead, they developed specialized functions based on their location and the needs of their inhabitants. This diversity indicates a sophisticated society where different settlements served specific roles as technological, commercial, or administrative hubs. This functional specialization is a key

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than the PGW, marking a significant evolution in the history of Indian pottery.

119. (D) There were multiple modes of production, including intensive agriculture and specialized crafts like pottery and metalworking.

The period of the Northern Black Polished Ware culture was characterized by a complex and diverse economic system. It was not limited to a single activity like hunting or pastoralism. Instead, it relied on intensive agriculture made possible by iron tools, which produced a surplus. This surplus supported various specialized crafts, most notably the production of high-quality ceramics and advanced metalworking. Additionally, vibrant trade networks connected different regions, creating an economy with multiple modes of production that sustained growing urban centers.

120. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The rise of cities in the Ganga Valley was a defining development of the Early Historic period, representing a shift toward higher social complexity. This growth was not an isolated event but was built upon a foundation of increased agricultural production and specialized skills. As surplus food and goods became available, trade networks expanded to connect diverse areas. These interconnected economic factors directly enabled the formation of large urban centers and powerful states, making the explanation provided in the reason both accurate and essential.

121. (C) Ujjain

Rajghat (Varanasi), Kausambi, and Sravasti are all major archaeological sites located within the fertile plains of the Ganga Valley. They served as important urban centers and capitals for various North Indian kingdoms. Ujjain, however, is situated on the banks of the Shipra River in the Malwa region of Central India. While it was a vital hub for trade and politics during the same historical period, its geographical location is distinct from the core Ganga River basin sites.

122. (A) Vaisali

Vaisali is the most relevant archaeological site for studying the origins of ancient Indian republics. It served as the capital of the Vrijjian confederacy and the Lichchhavis, one of the most famous Gana-sanghas of the Early Historic period. Unlike the monarchical states centered at sites like Kausambi or Rajgir, Vaisali provides a unique context for investigating the social and political organization of a non-monarchical, republican society. Its history is deeply intertwined with the life and teachings of both Mahavira and Buddha.

123. (B) 2 and 3 only

In North India, the Iron Age is archaeologically identified through the sequence of Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware cultures. In the Peninsular region, it is predominantly represented by the Megalithic tradition. However, the Iron Age was not a single, uniform culture across India; it showed significant regional variations. Furthermore, the use of iron had a profound impact on society, as iron tools revolutionized agriculture and facilitated the growth of the first urban centers and complex state systems.

124. (B) It is a fine, wheel-made grey pottery painted with black geometric designs.

Painted Grey Ware is recognized as a technically superior ceramic tradition. Its hallmark features include a very fine, thin fabric and a smooth grey surface achieved through careful wheel-turning and controlled firing. The pottery is typically decorated with simple yet elegant geometric motifs, such as lines, dots, and circles, painted in black. This distinctive style makes it easy for archaeologists to identify and serves as a primary diagnostic marker for the early Iron Age culture that flourished in the northern plains of India.

125. (C) trade conducted across seas and oceans.

The term maritime trade specifically refers to the exchange of goods and services carried out over large bodies of water, such as seas and oceans. In ancient India, this type of commerce was vital, connecting coastal ports like Arikamedu and Pattanam with foreign markets in the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, and beyond. This long-distance sea trade allowed for the movement of high-value items like spices, textiles, and precious metals, significantly influencing the economic and cultural development of the subcontinent's coastal regions.

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renowned for its specialized craft production, particularly the manufacturing of high-quality beads and gemstones. These findings indicate that Kodumanal was a center of both technological skill and economic activity, highlighting the development of industrial and trade networks in the Peninsular region during ancient times.

141. (A) 1, 3 and 4 only

The Megalithic culture is indeed characterized by large stone funerary monuments and the consistent use of Black and Red Ware pottery and iron artifacts. However, its geographical spread is not limited to Karnataka; it is found across Peninsular India and beyond. Furthermore, its chronology is not uniform, as different sites across the subcontinent show a wide range of dates. Therefore, only the statements concerning the architectural, ceramic, and technological features of the culture are universally accurate for all its major sites.

142. (D) Satanikota

Satanikota is an important archaeological site located on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in modern-day Andhra Pradesh. Excavations at the site have revealed an impressive early historic fortification system, including massive stone walls and a defensive moat. These features indicate that Satanikota was a well-organized and protected urban center during that period. Its discovery provides valuable insights into the military architecture and urban planning of the ancient Deccan, distinguishing it from simpler rural or unfortified settlements.

143. (A) Early Historic Urbanization - c. 600 BCE onwards

The Early Historic period and the process of the second urbanization in India are traditionally dated to approximately 600 BCE and later. This era saw the rise of cities, writing, and coinage. Other pairs are chronologically incorrect: NBPW belongs to the mid-first millennium BCE, not 2500 BCE; PGW dates to the late second and early first millennium BCE, not 1500 CE; and the Megalithic culture is an Iron Age phenomenon, not part of the ancient Paleolithic stone age period.

144. (A) 2 only

The emergence of the first large urban centers in the Ganga Valley is archaeologically associated with the Northern Black Polished Ware phase. This is the only correct statement among the options. The Iron Age was not a monolithic culture but showed regional diversity. Maritime trade was a flourishing and essential part of the Early Historic economy. Finally, Painted Grey Ware is primarily a tradition of Northern India, not the South. Correctly identifying these facts is necessary for an accurate historical perspective.

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145. (B) regional development and functional specialization of settlements.

The variety of sites like Sringaverpura, Arikamedu, and Nagarjunakonda demonstrates that ancient settlements were diverse and evolved based on their specific roles. Some became hubs for advanced engineering, others for international trade, and some for religious and intellectual activities. This highlights a sophisticated historical landscape where different regions developed unique strengths. This functional specialization reflects a complex society with an interconnected economy and culture, rather than a uniform or declining system, showing the growth and maturity of ancient Indian civilization across various territories.

146. (A) Kausambi was a minor village with no political significance.

Kausambi was far from being a minor village; it was one of the most important and prosperous urban centers of the Early Historic period. It served as the capital of the Vatsa kingdom and was a major hub for trade, culture, and politics in the Ganga Valley. In contrast, Taxila was a famous center of learning, Mathura was an important religious and commercial hub, and Sravasti was a thriving regional capital. Mischaracterizing Kausambi as a minor settlement ignores its central historical role.

147. (C) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Ahichhatra and Hasthinapur are indeed key PGW sites, and Atiranjikhera has provided vital evidence for iron in that context. Chandarketugarh is famous for its terracotta art, and Nasik is a major Satavahana-era site. However, these locations are not all within the Ganga-Yamuna doab. For instance, Chandarketugarh is in West

The ancient and historically significant city of Ujjain is located on the banks of the Shipra River in modern-day Madhya Pradesh. Ujjain was a vital urban center during the Early Historic period, serving as the capital of the Avanti kingdom and a major hub for trade and astronomy. Its location by the river was crucial for its development, providing water and a natural trade corridor. The Shipra River continues to be associated with the city's deep religious and historical heritage today.

134. (B) subterranean box-like chamber built with stone slabs.

In the context of Megalithic burial typology, a cist is a specific type of tomb constructed by placing several stone slabs together to form a box-like chamber, which is then usually buried underground. These structures often contained the remains of the deceased along with various grave goods like pottery and iron tools. Cists sometimes featured a port-hole, a circular opening in one of the side slabs. They represent one of the more common and elaborate funerary forms in Peninsular India.

135. (A) 1, 2 and 4 only

Taxila was indeed a famous center of learning, Sisupalgarh is a well-known fortified city in ancient Kalinga, and Sringaverpura is celebrated for its ancient water management system. These three pairs are correctly matched. However, Arikamedu is located on the east coast of India (near Puducherry), not the west coast. While it was an important port and trade center, its geographical placement must be accurately identified. Thus, the first, second, and fourth pairs are correct according to historical facts.

136. (A) Both internal and maritime trade routes developed, facilitating the exchange of a variety of goods.

The Early Historic period was characterized by a significant expansion of commerce that moved beyond local exchange. This era saw the development of extensive inland trade routes connecting different parts of the subcontinent, alongside vibrant maritime networks that linked coastal ports with foreign markets. These pathways allowed for the movement of a wide range of products, including both essential commodities and luxury items. This growing trade was a key driver of economic integration and supported the prosperity of new urban centers.

137. (C) A primarily rural and aceramic culture.

The Northern Black Polished Ware culture is definitively not a rural or aceramic tradition. On the contrary, its most defining features include its namesake highly lustrous pottery and its strong association with the rise of the first large, fortified cities in the Ganga Valley. It marks a period of significant urbanization and technological advancement during the Early Historic period. Claiming it was rural or lacked pottery is entirely incorrect, as the ware itself is a hallmark of this advanced urban society.

138. (B) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

Hallur is an important site for the early Iron Age in Peninsular India. Hasthinapur is a famous location for the Painted Grey Ware culture. Kausambi is a major urban center characterized by Northern Black Polished Ware. Kodumanal is well-known as a Megalithic site in South India. Correctly matching these concepts with their specific archaeological examples is essential for understanding the different cultural phases and settlement types that characterized the various regions of ancient India during the first millennium BCE.

139. (D) settled agriculture and animal husbandry.

The presence of numerous bones from domesticated cattle and pigs, alongside remains of staple crops like wheat and rice, provides direct evidence of a stable and diversified food-producing economy. Such findings indicate that the people of the Painted Grey Ware culture lived in permanent settlements where they practiced both farming and the rearing of livestock. This combination of activities ensured a steady food supply, supporting a growing population and marking a clear departure from a purely nomadic or foraging lifestyle.

140. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Kodumanal is a major archaeological site in Tamil Nadu that is significant for multiple reasons. It has provided valuable evidence for the Iron Age through its Megalithic burials and iron-smelting remains. Additionally, the site is

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well-organized square layout and massive earthen and brick walls provide clear archaeological evidence of sophisticated engineering and central authority. It offers a distinct regional perspective on the urbanization process, separate from the major centers of the Ganga Valley or the northwest.

169. (B) transition from a predominantly rural character to a developed urban character.

The most significant difference between the Painted Grey Ware and the Northern Black Polished Ware phases is the level of societal organization. PGW settlements were generally small and rural, representing a village-based agrarian society. In contrast, the NBPW culture is directly associated with the rise of the first large, fortified cities and a much more complex urban way of life. This transition marks the second major wave of urbanization in Indian history, characterized by advanced technology, expanding trade, and complex state formations.

170. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The phrase authors of the Megalithic tradition does not refer to the archaeologists who wrote about the sites. Instead, it is an academic term used to describe the ongoing scholarly debate about the identity of the actual people—the ethnic or cultural groups—who built these monuments. Since the Megalithic people left no written records, researchers must try to determine who they were based on their material remains. This question of identity is a central and complex problem in the study of ancient South Indian history.

171. (D) Kerala

Pattanam is a crucial archaeological site located in the Ernakulam district of Kerala, near the ancient port of Muziris. It has gained international importance because excavations there have yielded significant evidence of maritime trade with the Roman Empire and other parts of the Mediterranean. Finds such as Roman pottery, beads, and glass indicate that Pattanam was an active participant in long-distance sea commerce. This discovery has placed Kerala firmly on the map of the ancient global trade network during the Early Historic period.

172. (B) Kausambi - Gandhara

Kausambi was the capital of the Vatsa kingdom, which was located in the central Ganga Valley in modern-day Uttar Pradesh. It was not part of the Gandhara region, which was situated much further to the northwest in what is now Pakistan and Afghanistan. In contrast, Sravasti was the capital of Kosala, Ujjain was the capital of Avanti, and Mathura was the center of the Surasena kingdom. Misplacing Kausambi in Gandhara is a major geographic and historical error.

173. (C) advanced knowledge of hydraulic engineering and water management.

The massive water tank complex discovered at Sringaverpura is a remarkable example of ancient engineering. The system was designed with multiple interconnected channels and tanks to effectively divert, filter, and store water from the Ganga River. This discovery provides direct archaeological proof that the society of the time possessed sophisticated knowledge of hydraulics and water management. Such advanced technology would have been essential for supporting a large population and ensuring a stable water supply for both domestic use and agriculture in a major settlement.

174. (D) The specific time frame (c. 700/600 BCE - 100 BCE) in which it flourished.

In archaeological and historical studies, chronology refers to the placement of events or cultures within a specific period of time. For the Northern Black Polished Ware culture, this means identifying the era during which this high-quality pottery was most common, generally from the 7th or 6th century BCE down to the 1st century BCE. Establishing this timeframe is essential for understanding how the culture relates to the rise of cities, the Mahajanapadas, and other major historical developments in ancient India.

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175. (A) Evidence from sites like Malhar and Hallur suggests an early start to the Iron Age in India.

Archaeological evidence from various parts of India has provided a more accurate and ancient timeline for the use of iron. Sites like Malhar in the north and Hallur in the south have yielded artifacts and radiocarbon dates that push the beginning of the Iron Age back into the second

Bengal and Nasik is in Maharashtra. Therefore, while the individual descriptions of the sites are accurate, the statement about their collective geographical location in one specific northern region is incorrect.

148. (D) Northern Black Polished Ware

The acronym NBPW stands for Northern Black Polished Ware. This name refers to a high-quality, lustrous ceramic tradition that is a hallmark of the Early Historic period in India. The pottery is easily identified by its extremely fine, thin fabric and its unique, mirror-like black slip. While it originated and was most common in Northern India, particularly the Ganga Valley, it was traded extensively and has been found in archaeological sites across many other parts of the subcontinent.

149. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The Megalithic tradition in India is not strictly limited to the Iron Age. While it certainly flourished during that period, archaeological evidence from several sites shows that Megalithic practices continued well into the Early Historic period. In some regions, there is a clear overlap where Megalithic burials exist alongside the emergence of writing, coinage, and urban centers. This continuity suggests that the people who practiced this tradition maintained their burial customs even as their societies were undergoing broader technological and social transformations.

150. (B) the geographical area over which its characteristic traits are found.

In archaeology, the extent of a culture refers to the physical territory where its defining features, such as specific pottery or tools, have been discovered. For the Painted Grey Ware culture, this includes the core area of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab and parts of the Ghaggar-Hakra valley. Mapping this spread helps researchers understand the reach of the culture, its regional variations, and how its people interacted with neighboring groups. It provides a spatial dimension to our knowledge of ancient societies.

151. (D) In the Ganga Valley sequence, the NBPW phase generally follows the PGW phase.

In the stratigraphic records of numerous archaeological sites across the Ganga Valley, Northern Black Polished Ware consistently appears in layers that are above those containing Painted Grey Ware. This chronological sequence proves that the NBPW phase succeeded the PGW phase in that region. While the two cultures represent different stages of social and technological development, this clear relative timeline is essential for understanding the progression from a rural early Iron Age society to a more complex, urbanized civilization.

152. (A) Bhubaneswar

Sisupalgarh is an ancient fortified city located near Bhubaneswar, the modern capital of Odisha. It is one of the most significant early historic sites in Eastern India, known for its unique and highly organized square-shaped fortification system. Excavations at the site have revealed a wealth of archaeological data regarding urban planning and defensive architecture. Its proximity to Bhubaneswar makes it a major historical landmark in the region, providing insights into the power and organization of the ancient Kalinga territory.

153. (B) a combination of agricultural surplus, technological change (iron), and social organization.

The emergence of cities in the Ganga Valley was a complex process driven by multiple factors. The widespread adoption of iron technology allowed for more effective farming, which produced a substantial agricultural surplus. This surplus could support larger populations and people who were not farmers. Simultaneously, new social and political structures evolved to manage these growing communities, their resources, and expanding trade networks. Together, these technological and social changes created the necessary conditions for the rise of complex urban centers during the period.

154. (A) It provides crucial evidence for ancient maritime trade.

The statement that Arikamedu provides crucial evidence for ancient maritime trade is historically accurate. However, the question asks for the incorrect statement among the options. While Arikamedu was indeed a vital port for trade with Rome and has yielded Mediterranean artifacts, it is located on the east coast of India

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sites of cultural or commemorative significance for ancient communities.

183. (D) It was important both as a commercial crossroad and a center for religious art (Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical).

Mathura was a uniquely important city during the Early Historic period due to its dual role as a commercial and cultural hub. Strategically located at the junction of major trade routes, it thrived as a busy center for commerce. This wealth supported its growth as a renowned seat of religious art, where the famous Mathura school of sculpture produced iconic images for Buddhist, Jaina, and Brahmanical traditions. Its significance only grew over time, making it one of the most vital cities in ancient India.

184. (A) Arikamedu

A coastal site in Tamil Nadu that contains significant Roman artifacts like amphorae and Arretine ware is almost certainly Arikamedu. This site is the most famous Indo-Roman trading port in India, located near Puducherry. The presence of imported Mediterranean goods alongside local pottery provides definitive archaeological proof of its role as a major hub for international sea commerce. While other sites were important for different reasons, Arikamedu's unique archaeological record makes it the primary example of this ancient trade connection.

185. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The beginning of the Early Historic period was not a time of de-urbanization; instead, it was marked by the opposite process. This era witnessed the emergence of new, large urban centers across the Ganga Valley and other parts of the subcontinent. This growth was supported by technological advancements, agricultural surplus, and expanding trade networks. This phase is often called the Second Urbanization, distinguishing it from the earlier Harappan cities and representing a major shift toward a more complex and city-based social order in ancient India.

186. (A) Lothal

Lothal is a famous archaeological site, but it belongs to the much earlier Bronze Age Harappan civilization. In contrast, Adam, Nasik, and Chandarketugarh are all significant sites from the later historical period, which followed the Iron Age. While Lothal was an important port, its chronological context is entirely different from the Early Historic urban centers and settlements being discussed. Distinguishing between the earlier Indus Valley sites and the later historical ones is essential for maintaining an accurate timeline of Indian archaeology.

187. (D) ability to generate a substantial agricultural surplus, supporting non-food producers.

The fundamental economic change that allowed for the growth of cities was the ability of farmers to produce more food than they needed for themselves. This surplus was made possible by the use of iron tools, which improved agricultural efficiency. This excess food could then be used to support people who did not farm, such as artisans, merchants, and administrators. This shift from subsistence to a surplus-producing economy was the essential prerequisite for the development of complex urban societies and specialized non-agrarian roles.

188. (B) Satavahanas

Nasik, a major historical city in Maharashtra, is particularly famous for its impressive rock-cut Buddhist caves, known as Pandav Leni. These caves contain important inscriptions that provide valuable information about the Satavahana dynasty, which ruled over large parts of the Deccan. These inscriptions mention several Satavahana kings and their donations, making Nasik a key site for understanding the history, religion, and political organization of their empire during the Early Historic period. It reflects the dynasty's patronage of religious art.

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189. (C) PGW and NBPW are two names for the exact same type of pottery.

The claim that Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware are the same type of pottery is entirely incorrect. They are two distinct ceramic traditions that represent different technological stages and social contexts. PGW is a matte grey ware with painted designs, primarily associated with rural Iron Age settlements. NBPW is a much more advanced, highly lustrous, and deluxe pottery linked to the rise of cities and the Early Historic period. While both are Iron

much earlier than the mid-first millennium BCE. This shifts our understanding of when and how early societies in the Ganga Valley began to transition into a more technologically advanced Iron Age.

162. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Taxila held a uniquely strategic position in the northwest, serving as a gateway that connected the Indian subcontinent with Central and West Asia. This location at the junction of three major trade routes made it a thriving cosmopolitan hub where goods, ideas, and people from different cultures met. This commercial success provided the wealth and stability needed for Taxila to develop into a world-renowned center for education and learning. Both its geographic location and its subsequent cultural growth are historically well-documented facts.

163. (C) increased demand for standardized currency and development of trade routes.

As trade networks expanded during the Early Historic period, the need for more efficient and organized systems of exchange grew. This directly led to the development of established trade routes across both land and sea to facilitate long-distance commerce. Furthermore, the growth of trade created a demand for a more reliable and standardized way to pay for goods, leading to the introduction and widespread use of punch-marked coinage. These developments were essential for the economic integration and prosperity of the first urban centers.

164. (D) All ancient historical sites were exclusively religious in nature.

While many ancient historical sites like Nagarjunakonda had major religious components, it is incorrect to say they were all exclusively religious. The archaeological record shows a wide variety of site types, including coastal ports like Arikamedu and Pattanam that focused on international trade, and fortified urban centers like Satanikota. Sites like Sringaverpura were famous for their advanced engineering. This diversity demonstrates that ancient Indian settlements served multiple functions, including economic, administrative, and technological roles, alongside their important religious and cultural activities.

165. (C) Kausambi

While Hasthinapur, Atiranjikhera, and Ahichhatra are all key sites for understanding the Painted Grey Ware culture, Kausambi is primarily distinguished as a major urban capital of the subsequent Early Historic period. It was the powerful capital of the Vatsa Mahajanapada and is famously associated with the Northern Black Polished Ware and the rise of urbanization. Although it has early levels, its fame and historical importance are rooted in its status as a massive, fortified city and political hub in the Ganga Valley.

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166. (B) complex and diversified, including agriculture, crafts, and trade.

The phrase multiple modes of economic production indicates that the economy of the Early Historic period was not reliant on just one activity. Instead, it was a complex system where several different ways of producing food and goods existed simultaneously. This included intensive agriculture made possible by iron tools, a wide range of specialized crafts like metallurgy and pottery, and vibrant trade networks that linked different regions. This diversity supported a more complex society and allowed for the growth of large, prosperous urban centers.

167. (D) The burials often contain a rich repertoire of iron objects and Black and Red Ware pottery.

The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India is uniquely identified by its burial practices, which consistently yield a variety of iron tools and weapons alongside distinctive Black and Red Ware pottery. This culture was far from being part of the Bronze Age or aceramic; instead, it represents a significant phase of the Iron Age. Furthermore, the tradition was widespread across the southern regions and involved the construction of elaborate stone monuments, rather than just simple cremation with no markers.

168. (A) Sisupalgarh

For a researcher interested in the urban planning and defensive architecture of an Early Historic city in eastern India, Sisupalgarh is the ideal case study. Located in Odisha, it is one of the best-preserved fortified cities of the period. Its unique,

near Puducherry, not on the west coast in Kerala. Therefore, misplacing its geographical location is the error that needs to be identified according to the context of historical and archaeological facts.

155. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The identity of the people who created the Megalithic tradition is a subject of ongoing and vigorous debate among scholars. There is no definitive consensus that they were Dravidian speakers from the Mediterranean; that is just one of many theories. Because the culture left no written records of its own, archaeologists and historians must rely on material remains, which can be interpreted in multiple ways. This makes the question of their origins and identity one of the most intriguing and unresolved puzzles in ancient Indian history.

156. (B) local iron smelting and metallurgical activity.

The discovery of iron slag (the waste from smelting), furnaces, and tuyeres (pipes used to blow air into a furnace) provides direct proof that iron was being processed at the site. This evidence indicates that the inhabitants had not only acquired iron tools but also possessed the technological knowledge to smelt iron ore and manufacture their own implements. Such metallurgical activity is a key indicator of an advanced technological stage and local industrial capabilities within an ancient community like Malhar.

157. (C) Large, fortified urban centres like those of the NBPW period.

The Painted Grey Ware culture is primarily characterized by its distinctive fine grey pottery and its association with the early Iron Age in the Ganga basin. Archaeological evidence shows that it was predominantly a rural, village-based society with an economy rooted in agriculture. Unlike the subsequent Northern Black Polished Ware period, the PGW phase did not feature large, fortified urban centers. This transition from smaller rural settlements to complex cities happened later, marking a significant shift in the urbanization process of ancient India.

158. (D) the form and structure of the burial monuments.

Typology in Megalithic studies is the systematic classification of monuments based on their physical appearance and construction methods. This involves distinguishing between different structures like upright menhirs, table-like dolmens, box-like subterranean cists, and various types of stone circles. By focusing on the form and structure of these funerary sites, archaeologists can identify regional patterns and cultural variations within the broader Megalithic tradition. It is a vital tool for understanding the architectural diversity of ancient Peninsular Indian communities.

159. (A) The Lichchhavis

Vaisali was a very important ancient city that served as the capital of the Lichchhavis. They were one of the most prominent groups within the Vrijjian confederacy, a famous gana-sangha or republican state in North India. Vaisali is historically significant because it was one of the earliest examples of a non-monarchical, democratic-style government. The city was a major urban center and a place of great religious importance, as it was visited frequently by both the Buddha and Mahavira.

160. (B) Black and Red Ware (Megalithic) - Peninsular India

Black and Red Ware is the ceramic tradition most characteristically and widely associated with the Megalithic burials across Peninsular India. This pottery serves as a diagnostic marker for the culture in that region. Other pairings are incorrect: Painted Grey Ware is centered in Northern India, Northern Black Polished Ware is primarily associated with the Ganga Valley urbanization, and Rouletted Ware is found in coastal trade sites like Arikamedu. Correctly identifying these associations is essential for understanding regional archaeological sequences.

161. (B) challenges previous chronologies by suggesting an earlier start for iron use.

The new evidence from sites like Dadupur and Raja Nal-ka-tila is highly significant because it has provided radiocarbon dates for iron use that are much older than those previously accepted. These discoveries have forced archaeologists to rethink the timeline of metallurgy in India, suggesting that iron technology was developed or adopted

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millennium BCE. This proves that iron technology was developed or adopted indigenously much earlier than previously thought and was not a late introduction from foreign sources. These discoveries have revised our understanding of ancient Indian metallurgy.

176. (B) Uttar Pradesh

Khairadih is an important archaeological site located in the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh. It is situated on the banks of the Sarayu River and has yielded a significant sequence of cultural remains, including those from the Northern Black Polished Ware period. Excavations at the site have provided valuable information about early urban life and trade in the eastern part of the Ganga Valley. Its discovery has helped to fill gaps in our understanding of the regional distribution of historical settlements.

177. (C) A decline in trade and craft production.

The emergence of urban centers in the Ganga Valley was actually characterized by an expansion of trade and craft production, not a decline. Technological advancements and agricultural surplus allowed for more people to become specialized artisans and merchants. This led to the growth of cities as hubs for manufacturing and commerce. Along with population growth, monumental architecture, and the development of administrative systems, this economic vitality was a key feature of the Second Urbanization that defined the Early Historic period in India.

178. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The geographical distribution of the Megalithic culture is not strictly limited to Peninsular India. While it is most concentrated and famous in the southern states, archaeological evidence shows that similar Megalithic practices also existed in other parts of the subcontinent and beyond. This wider distribution indicates that the tradition of erecting large stone monuments for the dead was a more extensive phenomenon than previously believed. Understanding this broader spread is essential for grasping the true scale and influence of this ancient cultural tradition.

179. (C) organized, with martial elements and possibly chieftains.

The types of artifacts found in Megalithic burials provide important clues about the society that built them. The frequent presence of iron weapons like swords and spears, along with horse-fittings, suggests a society with a significant martial or warrior element. Furthermore, the construction of massive stone monuments and the variation in the richness of grave goods point toward a degree of social organization and hierarchy, possibly led by local chieftains who could mobilize labor and resources for these funerary rites.

180. (D) Ahichhatra was a minor village of no historical importance.

The claim that Ahichhatra was a minor village is incorrect. In fact, Ahichhatra was one of the most significant and largest ancient cities in Northern India. It served as the capital of North Panchala and has yielded a rich archaeological record, including extensive remains from the PGW and NBPW periods. In contrast, Hasthinapur, Atiranjikhera, and Sringaverpura are all correctly described as important historical sites with significant cultural, technological, or engineering features. Misjudging Ahichhatra overlooks its role as a major regional capital.

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181. (C) Tungabhadra

Satanikota is an important archaeological site located in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. It is situated on the right bank of the Tungabhadra River. The site is notable for its Early Historic fortification, including a massive stone wall and a moat, which highlights the strategic and administrative importance of the settlement. Its location by the river was crucial for providing water and as a corridor for trade and communication within the ancient Deccan region during the historical period.

182. (B) single tall upright stone erected as a monument or memorial.

In the typology of Megalithic monuments, a Menhir is one of the simplest and most recognizable forms. It consists of a single, large upright stone that has been placed in the ground as a marker or memorial. Unlike cists or dolmens, which are complex burial chambers, a menhir serves as a prominent vertical monument. They are found across various parts of India and the world, often standing alone or in groups, marking

126. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

Sravasti is an important archaeological site in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Nasik is a famous historical center known for its caves in Maharashtra. Nagarjunakonda was a major Buddhist hub located in the Krishna Valley of Andhra Pradesh. Pattanam is a significant trade port on the coast of Kerala. Correctly matching these sites with their respective modern states is essential for understanding the geographical distribution of ancient India's cultural, religious, and economic centers across the subcontinent.

127. (A) Hasthinapur

Hasthinapur is the historical site traditionally identified with the capital of the Kuru kingdom, as mentioned in the great Indian epic, the Mahabharata. Excavations at the site have revealed a long sequence of occupation, including a prominent Painted Grey Ware phase. While other sites like Ahichhatra and Kausambi were also important regional capitals, Hasthinapur holds a unique place in Indian cultural history due to its strong legendary and literary associations with the ancient Kuru dynasty and the events of the epic.

128. (B) The burials are uniform in type, consisting only of dolmens.

The Megalithic culture is characterized by its wide geographical spread and the consistent use of iron and Black and Red Ware pottery. However, the claim that its burials are uniform in type is incorrect. On the contrary, the tradition is famous for its great typological diversity. Megalithic sites include various forms of monuments, such as subterranean cists, table-like dolmens, upright menhirs, and stone circles. This variety reflects the diverse regional and local practices of the different communities involved.

129. (A) 1, 3 and 4 only

Malhar and Dadupur have provided groundbreaking evidence for the early use of iron, and its adoption is believed to have greatly assisted in forest clearance and agricultural expansion. Furthermore, Kodumanal and Kumaranahalli are indeed early Iron Age sites in the Peninsular region. However, Hallur is located in Karnataka, not the Ganga Valley. Additionally, the introduction of iron did not immediately end the use of copper or bronze; instead, these materials often continued to be used for specific tools and ornaments.

130. (A) a major Ganga valley urban centre from the NBPW period onwards.

Rajghat is the ancient archaeological site of Kashi (Varanasi), one of the oldest and most important cities in India. Its cultural remains are highly significant because they provide a record of continuous urban occupation starting from the Northern Black Polished Ware period. The site reveals the city's growth as a major religious, economic, and political hub in the Ganga Valley. It serves as an essential case study for understanding the long-term history of urbanization and cultural continuity in the region.

131. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware are indeed the two most significant ceramic traditions used by archaeologists to define the Iron Age phases in Northern India. In the stratigraphic records of many Ganga Valley sites, the NBPW layers consistently appear above the PGW layers, proving that the NBPW phase succeeded the earlier PGW phase. This sequence is foundational for establishing the historical timeline from the early Iron Age into the period of the second urbanization and beyond.

132. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Arikamedu and Pattanam are indispensable for historical research because they offer direct material proof of India's participation in an ancient global economy. Excavations at these coastal sites have yielded significant quantities of Roman artifacts, such as amphorae, Arretine ware, and coins. This archaeological evidence confirms that these locations functioned as major ports for extensive maritime trade with the Roman Empire. Therefore, the physical discoveries provide the necessary factual basis for understanding the economic significance of these sites in ancient times.

133. (C) Shipra

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Age ceramics, they are archaeologically and technologically very different.

190. (D) the existence of well-developed trade and exchange networks.

The discovery of Northern Black Polished Ware far beyond its core production area in the Ganga Valley is a very strong indicator of long-distance trade. Because NBPW was a high-quality, deluxe ceramic, it was likely a valued commodity that was traded across different regions. Its wide distribution shows that ancient Indian communities were connected by vibrant and extensive exchange networks. This movement of goods was a key part of the expanding economy of the Early Historic period, linking distant urban centers and regional settlements together.

191. (A) the cultural and ethnic identity of the people who built the Megaliths.

In archaeological studies, the phrase authors of the Megalithic tradition refers to the complex and ongoing scholarly debate about who the people were that created this unique culture. Since the builders left no written records, researchers must try to identify their origins, linguistic affiliations, and ethnic identity based solely on their material remains and burial customs. This question is central to ancient Indian history because the tradition is so widespread and distinct, yet the actual identity of its creators remains a subject of multiple theories.

192. (B) It was an inland city in the northwest, renowned as a centre of commerce and learning.

Taxila was a prominent ancient city located in the Gandhara region of the northwest. Its strategic location at the junction of major trade routes made it a thriving hub for international commerce and a cosmopolitan center for culture. Most famously, Taxila was a world-renowned seat of education, attracting students and scholars from across the subcontinent to its famous university. It was an inland urban center, not a coastal port, and its significance lay in its intellectual and commercial vitality during the historical period.

193. (B) Hallur

Hallur is an important archaeological site in Karnataka that is uniquely known for its evidence of a transition period. Excavations there revealed a cultural sequence where an early Iron Age phase directly overlapped with the preceding Neolithic-Chalcolithic phase. This discovery has been crucial for understanding how and when iron technology was first introduced and adopted in Peninsular India. It shows that the change was not always a sudden break but could involve a period of cultural overlap as new technologies were integrated into existing societies.

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194. (A) Northern Black Polished Ware and punch-marked coins.

The start of the Early Historic period in the Ganga Valley is archaeologically defined by a clear shift in material culture. The most prominent indicators of this new era are the widespread appearance of Northern Black Polished Ware and the introduction of standardized punch-marked coinage. These features reflect the technological advancement, the rise of urbanization, and the development of a more complex, money-based economy. This phase represents a move toward the organized state societies that characterized the subsequent centuries of ancient Indian history.

195. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The Megalithic culture of Peninsular India was definitely not aceramic. On the contrary, one of its most defining and characteristic features is the presence of distinctive pottery, particularly the well-known Black and Red Ware. This ceramic is consistently found within the burials and provides essential evidence for the technological and cultural identity of the builders. Therefore, while the culture is named after its large stone monuments, its pottery is an equally important and diagnostic hallmark of the tradition in the archaeological record.

196. (D) NBPW bowls.

Megalithic burials are famous for containing a variety of grave goods, such as iron weapons, Black and Red Ware pottery, and semi-precious stone beads like carnelian. However, NBPW bowls are not typical cultural artifacts found in these contexts. Northern Black Polished Ware is a deluxe ceramic tradition that belongs primarily to the urban centers of the Ganga Valley. While a few sherds might be found due to trade, NBPW is not a characteristic feature of the Peninsular

distant parts of the Indian subcontinent. These pathways allowed for the movement of goods, which integrated regional economies and encouraged the growth of cities as hubs of commerce. Furthermore, as merchants and travelers moved along these routes, they also exchanged ideas, religious beliefs, and artistic styles, fostering a shared culture. This connectivity was a fundamental driver of the social and economic complexity that characterized the era.

212. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The Painted Grey Ware culture was primarily a rural, village-based society, and it did not mark the beginning of major urbanization in the Ganga Valley. Instead, the first significant wave of urbanization, often called the Second Urbanization, is archaeologically associated with the subsequent Northern Black Polished Ware culture. This NBPW phase saw the rise of large, fortified cities, expanding trade, and more complex state systems. Therefore, the transition to a truly urban society happened after the PGW period, during the Early Historic era.

213. (C) Adam is an early historic fortified site in Maharashtra.

Adam is a well-documented archaeological site located in Maharashtra that has yielded significant evidence of a fortified settlement from the early historic period. This is the only correct statement among the options. Pattanam is a trade port in Kerala, not Haryana. Khairadih is an interior site in Uttar Pradesh, not a Megalithic site in Tamil Nadu. Chandarketugarh is an important site in West Bengal, not an Indo-Roman port in Gujarat. Correctly identifying these sites is essential for geographical accuracy.

214. (B) Kosala

Sravasti was a very prominent and prosperous ancient city that served as the capital of the Kosala Mahajanapada. It was one of the six largest and most important urban centers in North India during the time of the Buddha. Sravasti was a major hub for trade and a significant religious center, as it was a favorite residence of the Buddha, who spent many rainy seasons there teaching. Its history is central to understanding the political and religious life of the Ganga Valley.

215. (D) Brick temple

Cist burials, dolmens, and menhirs are all classic types of Megalithic monuments made from large stones, used primarily for marking graves or as memorials during the Iron Age. In contrast, brick temples are not a standard type of Megalithic monument. Temples made of brick and other materials became a common feature much later, during the Early Historic and subsequent periods of Indian history. The Megalithic tradition is specifically defined by its use of massive stones, rather than the brick architecture associated with later religious structures.

216. (A) coincides with the period of the Mahajanapadas and the rise of kingdoms like Magadha.

The Northern Black Polished Ware culture is a vital archaeological marker for the Early Historic period because it flourished at the same time as the first major territorial states, the Mahajanapadas. This phase saw the rise of powerful kingdoms like Magadha and the development of the first large cities since the Harappan decline. Because the NBPW is found in the stratigraphic layers associated with this political transformation, it provides researchers with an essential material link to the era of state formation and urbanization.

217. (C) great age or earliness of the use of iron.

In the context of historical and archaeological studies, the word antiquity refers to the great age or the earliness of a particular phenomenon. When researchers discuss the antiquity of iron in India, they are focusing on how far back in time the use of this metal can be traced. Recent discoveries at several sites have shown that iron technology was being used much earlier than previously thought, thereby increasing its antiquity. This research is essential for establishing an accurate timeline of technological development in the subcontinent.

218. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Kodumanal is an important archaeological site in Tamil Nadu that serves as a vital source of evidence for multiple historical phases. It is well-known for providing early dates for iron use and also contains significant Megalithic burial monuments. This co-occurrence provides strong

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Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila are all significant archaeological sites located within the geographical region of the Ganga Valley, specifically in modern-day Uttar Pradesh. These sites have gained historical importance because excavations there have provided revolutionary new evidence regarding the early use of iron technology. By offering radiocarbon dates from a very early period, these Ganga Valley sites have played a crucial role in pushing back the known antiquity of the Iron Age in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent.

205. (C) Its fine quality and wide distribution suggest it was a high-value commodity linked to trade.

The Northern Black Polished Ware is a high-quality, technically advanced ceramic that was likely valued as a luxury item. Its unique, mirror-like finish required great skill to produce, and its presence at archaeological sites far across the subcontinent indicates that it was traded extensively. This wide distribution, combined with its fine quality, suggests that NBPW was a prestigious commodity. This reflects the growth of sophisticated trade networks and a more stratified society during the Early Historic period in ancient India.

206. (D) Nagarjunakonda

Rajghat, Mathura, and Kausambi were all prominent and thriving urban centers and political capitals during the Early Historic period in Northern India. In contrast, Nagarjunakonda is primarily famous as a major religious and intellectual hub, specifically a center for Buddhism in South India. While it was a large and important complex of stupas and monasteries, its primary function and character were religious rather than being one of the foundational urban capitals of the Ganga Valley city-state traditions.

207. (A) determining the relative chronology of the two cultures.

Finding one cultural layer directly above another is a fundamental archaeological principle known as stratification. At Hasthinapur, the discovery of Northern Black Polished Ware in a layer above the Painted Grey Ware provides definitive proof that the PGW culture is older and the NBPW culture is newer. This relative chronology is essential for building an accurate timeline of the Iron Age in the Ganga Valley, allowing historians to trace the sequence of technological and social changes over several centuries.

208. (B) Sringaverpura - PGW pottery

Sringaverpura is most famously known for its remarkable and sophisticated ancient hydraulic system, which includes a massive water tank complex. While it has historical levels, its primary archaeological fame is not rooted in Painted Grey Ware pottery, but in its advanced water management engineering. In contrast, Sisupalgarh is known for its fortified plan, Arikamedu for maritime trade, and Nagarjunakonda for its many Buddhist structures. Correctly identifying each site's hallmark feature is essential for an accurate understanding of their historical roles.

209. (B) Karnataka

Kumaranahalli is an important archaeological site located in the Davanagere district of Karnataka. It has provided significant evidence for the early Iron Age in Peninsular India. Excavations at the site have yielded various iron artifacts that, along with findings from other nearby sites like Hallur, have helped to establish a much earlier timeline for the use of iron technology in the southern part of the subcontinent. Its discovery is vital for understanding the regional development of ancient metallurgy.

210. (A) the iron daggers, beads, and pottery placed with the deceased.

In archaeological terms, cultural artefacts are the physical objects created or modified by humans. In the context of Megalithic burials, this specifically refers to the variety of items placed in the graves, such as iron tools and weapons, ceramic vessels like Black and Red Ware, and decorative ornaments like beads. These objects are essential for researchers because they provide direct evidence of the technology, economy, and funerary beliefs of the society, whereas the stones and skeletons themselves represent different types of data.

211. (C) facilitated economic integration, cultural exchange, and the growth of urban centres.

The development of trade routes during the Early Historic period was essential for connecting

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Megalithic burial tradition itself, which has its own distinct pottery styles.

197. (C) Raja Nal-ka-tila - Early Iron Age site in Uttar Pradesh

Raja Nal-ka-tila is an important archaeological site located in Uttar Pradesh that is correctly known for providing early evidence of iron use. This site, along with others in the region, has helped researchers push back the antiquity of iron in the Ganga Valley. The other pairings are incorrect: Dadupur is also in Uttar Pradesh, not Tamil Nadu; Kumaranahalli is in Karnataka, not Bihar; and Kodumanal is a major Iron Age and early historic site in Tamil Nadu, not Punjab.

198. (B) political and commercial prosperity.

Ujjain's strategic location was a major driver of its success during the Early Historic period. By being situated on a vital trade route that connected the wealthy Ganga Valley with the bustling sea ports of the western coast, Ujjain became a natural hub for commerce. This economic importance directly translated into political power and cultural wealth, allowing the city to thrive as a regional capital and a center for learning. Its prosperity was a direct result of its geographical advantage in the ancient trade network.

199. (D) Kausambi

Kausambi was a major and prosperous ancient city that served as the capital of the Vatsa Mahajanapada. Located on the banks of the Yamuna River, it was a vital hub for trade, politics, and culture in the central Ganga Valley. Kausambi is famous for its massive fortifications and its long history of occupation, making it one of the most significant urban centers of the Early Historic period. It played a central role in the political rivalries and economic developments of the time.

200. (A) Satanikota is a site in Kerala.

The claim that Satanikota is a site in Kerala is incorrect. Satanikota is actually located in the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh, on the banks of the Tungabhadra River. It is a significant Early Historic site known for its fortification and moat. In contrast, Adam is indeed in Maharashtra, Chandarketugarh is in West Bengal, and Ahichhatra is in Uttar Pradesh. Misplacing Satanikota overlooks its true geographical and historical context within the ancient Deccan region of the Indian peninsula.

201. (C) two or more upright stones supporting a large flat horizontal capstone.

A dolmen is a specific and recognizable type of Megalithic monument. Its basic structure consists of several upright stone slabs, which serve as walls, supporting a massive horizontal stone called a capstone. This arrangement creates a box-like chamber that was often used for burial purposes. Dolmens are found in many parts of the world, including Peninsular India, and represent a sophisticated level of communal effort and engineering for the funerary and memorial traditions of ancient communities during the Iron Age.

202. (A) establish a more accurate and potentially earlier timeline for the introduction and use of iron.

Research into the antiquity of iron in India focuses on determining when the technology first appeared and how it spread. By excavating new sites and using modern dating techniques, archaeologists aim to refine the historical timeline. This work has already shown that iron was being used much earlier than previously thought, pushing the start of the Iron Age back into the second millennium BCE. Establishing this earlier chronology is essential for understanding the technological progress and social evolution of ancient Indian societies.

203. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The Painted Grey Ware culture was predominantly a rural, village-based society rather than an urban one. Archaeological evidence shows that PGW settlements were generally small in size and lacked the large, fortified city structures that defined the subsequent Northern Black Polished Ware period. While the people of the PGW culture practiced settled agriculture and possessed advanced ceramic and metallurgical skills, they lived in decentralized rural communities. The process of large-scale urbanization in the Ganga Valley began more prominently in the following historical phase.

204. (B) The Ganga Valley

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archaeological proof of the connection between the early Iron Age and the Megalithic tradition in Peninsular India. These findings highlights that the builders of the Megaliths were among the early masters of iron metallurgy, integrating this technology into their funerary and social practices.

219. (D) it is a distinctive and consistently found ceramic that helps define and identify the culture archaeologically.

In archaeology, a characteristic trait is a material feature that is so unique and consistently present that it can be used to identify a specific culture or time period. Painted Grey Ware fits this description perfectly for the early Iron Age in Northern India. Because this pottery is found in many settlements across a large area and has a very specific style and manufacturing process, it allows researchers to confidently recognize and define the sites and the society that produced it. It serves as a diagnostic tool.

220. (B) Trade routes played a minimal role in the economy.

The claim that trade routes played only a minimal role in the economy of the Early Historic period is incorrect. In fact, both internal land routes and maritime sea routes were essential for the economic vitality of the era. They facilitated the exchange of agricultural surplus, specialized crafts, and luxury goods between different regions and with foreign markets. This trade was a primary driver of urban growth and societal complexity, making it a central rather than a minor feature of the ancient Indian economy.

221. (C) Uttar Pradesh

Atiranjikhera is a crucial archaeological site located in the Etah district of Uttar Pradesh. It is highly significant for tracing the long-term history of the Ganga Valley because it has revealed a continuous sequence of human occupation over several millennia. Excavations at the site have uncovered remains from the Ochre Coloured Pottery, Painted Grey Ware, and Northern Black Polished Ware phases. This deep stratigraphic record has provided invaluable data on the technological and social evolution of early Indian societies in the northern plains.

222. (D) Ujjain - Capital of Avanti

Ujjain was a very important ancient city that served as the capital of the Avanti kingdom, one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas. It was a major hub for trade, politics, and culture in Central India. The other pairings are incorrect: Vaisali was a famous republic, not a monarchy; Taxila was an inland center of learning and trade, not a seaport; and Sravasti was a large, prosperous regional capital during the Early Historic period, not a minor village. Correctly identifying these roles is essential for historical accuracy.

223. (A) increased agricultural production.

The availability of stronger and more durable iron tools had a transformative impact on the Ganga Valley. Iron axes were far more effective at clearing the dense, subtropical forests, while iron-tipped ploughs could work the heavy, fertile soil more deeply and efficiently. Together, these technological improvements allowed communities to cultivate much larger areas of land and produce a significant surplus of food. This increase in agricultural output was a fundamental prerequisite for supporting larger populations and the subsequent growth of urban centers.

224. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.

Sisupalgarh is a well-known and extensively excavated early historic fortified city located near Bhubaneswar in Odisha. Far from being haphazard, the site is particularly famous for its remarkably organized square-shaped fortification and well-planned layout. The archaeological evidence, including the regular arrangement of its massive gates and defensive walls, indicates a high degree of central planning and engineering skill. This makes Sisupalgarh one of the most important examples of sophisticated urban organization in ancient India, especially on the eastern coast.

225. (B) the regional distribution of sites where Megalithic monuments are found.

In archaeological studies, the geographical spread of a culture refers to the physical area where its characteristic remains are discovered. For the Megalithic culture, this involves mapping the distribution of sites containing large stone

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southern archaeological settings from a very early and significant historical period, showing its integral role in their ancient development.

254. (D) There were multiple, independent or semi-independent centres of iron origin and use.

A polycentric phenomenon implies that the development of iron did not happen in one single location. Instead, the evidence from both northern and southern India indicates multiple independent or semi-independent centers of origin. This model challenges the idea of a single monolithic event or a simple diffusion from one specific geographical source, suggesting a more complex and diverse start.

255. (C) Diffusionist models of technological spread

The collective archaeological evidence suggests that iron technology developed in various regions independently. This discovery requires a shift away from diffusionist models, which propose that technology spreads from one central point. Instead, the data points toward indigenous centers of production, necessitating a fundamental re-evaluation of how technological knowledge and cultural practices were previously understood to have spread.

256. (B) The Indo-Gangetic divide and the Upper Ganga plains

The passage identifies the Painted Grey Ware culture as a significant Iron Age archaeological culture. It specifically locates this culture in the Indo-Gangetic divide and the Upper Ganga plains. This geographical region defines the primary extent of the culture, situating it between the Late Harappan phase and the subsequent rise of the Mahajanapadas, marking a crucial transitional period.

257. (D) Fine grey pottery with black geometric patterns

The culture is most easily identified by its unique pottery style. This ceramic tradition features fine, well-fired, grey-coloured ware, usually in the form of bowls and dishes. These items are typically decorated with distinct geometric patterns in black paint. This specific pottery serves as the primary diagnostic marker for archaeologists identifying sites belonging to this particular Iron Age period.

258. (A) The Late Harappan phase and the rise of Mahajanapadas

Chronologically, the Painted Grey Ware culture is dated between 1200 BCE and 600 BCE. This timeline places it in the transitional period following the Late Harappan phase. It concludes just as the great Mahajanapadas began to emerge. This specific placement highlights its role in the transition from late prehistoric phases to the early historic era in northern India.

259. (C) Copper objects were used alongside a proliferation of iron technology.

During the Painted Grey Ware phase, iron technology became widespread, as evidenced by tools like arrowheads and spearheads. However, the use of other metals did not cease immediately. Copper objects continued to be used alongside these newer iron tools. This indicates a period of overlap where different metallurgical technologies coexisted within the rural village settlements of the Gangetic plains.

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260. (A) Agriculture and animal husbandry

The subsistence strategy of this culture involved a mixed economy. This economic system relied on both agricultural practices and animal husbandry. Evidence suggests the cultivation of staples like rice and wheat, alongside the rearing of livestock. This combination provided a stable material foundation for the small, rural villages characterized by their simple wattle-and-daub housing structures and rural lifestyles.

261. (D) A deluxe pottery with a fine fabric and lustrous finish

The Northern Black Polished Ware culture is distinguished by its high-quality, deluxe pottery. This specific ceramic type features a very fine fabric and a characteristic lustrous finish. The finish typically appears jet-black or deep grey, though other hues are sometimes present. Such sophisticated pottery suggests advanced ceramic technology and signifies its status as a high-value item within that society.

262. (B) It has a considerably wider geographical distribution.

The geographical spread of the Northern Black Polished Ware culture was much broader than

contrast, Pattanam is primarily identified as a significant maritime trading post and port on the southwestern coast. While it was a large and important settlement, its historical role was more focused on sea commerce and Mediterranean contacts than on being one of the primary imperial or territorial capitals of the subcontinent's major inland political centers during that era.

233. (C) Menhir

A single, large upright stone erected as a monument or memorial is typologically classified as a Menhir. In the Megalithic tradition, these monoliths were often placed near burials or in significant locations as prominent markers. They are distinct from box-like burial chambers like cists or table-like structures like dolmens. Finding a menhir in association with Iron Age burials is a common feature in Peninsular India, and it represents a simple yet powerful form of commemorative architecture used by ancient communities to honor the deceased.

234. (A) larger population, occupational diversity, and administrative functions.

In the Early Historic period, an urban center was distinguished from a rural village by its greater size and complexity. Cities had much larger and denser populations and were characterized by people performing many different roles beyond farming, such as artisans, merchants, and officials. Furthermore, urban centers often served as capitals or administrative hubs where political power was concentrated. Unlike villages, these cities were frequently fortified and featured monumental architecture, reflecting the complex social and economic organization of a truly urban society.

235. (D) Adam is a fortified site from the historical period in Maharashtra.

Adam is a well-known archaeological site in Maharashtra that has provided important evidence of a fortified urban settlement dating from the proto-historic into the early historic period. This is the only correct statement among the options. Sringaverpura is in Uttar Pradesh, not Chennai. Nasik is in Maharashtra, not Uttar Pradesh. Satanikota is an early historic fortified town in Andhra Pradesh, not a Buddhist site in Bihar. Correctly placing these sites geographically is essential for an accurate understanding of ancient India.

236. (B) the study of the antiquity of iron in India.

The site of Malhar has gained significant importance in Indian archaeology specifically due to its role in the study of early metallurgy. Excavations there have revealed iron artifacts and evidence of smelting that yielded radiocarbon dates much older than previously accepted for the Iron Age. This finding has been instrumental in the ongoing academic debate about when iron technology first appeared in the Indian subcontinent. Therefore, Malhar's primary historical significance is rooted in its contribution to revising the antiquity of iron in the region.

237. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

The expansion of trade during the Early Historic period was not limited to land routes; maritime trade was also a key and very important feature. Evidence from coastal sites like Arikamedu and Pattanam clearly shows that ancient India was connected to distant markets in the Mediterranean and beyond via sea routes. These ports facilitated the exchange of goods on an international scale, contributing significantly to the economy. Therefore, trade in this era was a multi-faceted process that utilized both inland terrestrial paths and overseas maritime networks.

238. (D) A fine grey ware with painted geometric patterns in black.

The most defining and characteristic trait of the Painted Grey Ware culture is its namesake pottery. This ceramic is distinguished by its very fine, thin fabric and its smooth grey color, which was achieved through specialized wheel-turning and controlled firing. It is consistently decorated with simple black geometric motifs, such as lines, dots, and circles. This unique style makes it easily recognizable and serves as the primary diagnostic marker for the early Iron Age settlements that flourished in the northern plains of the subcontinent.

239. (A) Vaisali was the capital of the powerful Magadhan monarchy.

Vaisali was the capital of the Lichchhavis and the center of a prominent republican confederacy (gana-sangha), not a monarchy. In contrast,

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monuments across Peninsular India and other regions. Identifying this spread helps researchers understand the reach of the tradition, the different environments its people inhabited, and their movement or influence across the subcontinent. It provides a spatial context for understanding the scale and importance of the Megalithic tradition.

226. (A) Northern Panchala

Ahichhatra was a major and historically significant ancient city that served as the capital of North Panchala. Located in modern-day Uttar Pradesh, it was one of the most important urban centers in the Ganga Valley during the first millennium BCE. Excavations at the site have revealed a rich sequence of occupational remains, including those from the Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware periods. Its role as a regional capital highlights its importance in the political and cultural history of the time.

227. (C) It was marked by multiple modes of production, including agriculture, crafts, and vibrant trade.

The economy of the Early Historic period was diverse and complex, characterized by the coexistence of different production methods. Agriculture remained the primary foundation, but it was supplemented by specialized crafts like metallurgy and pottery-making in urban centers. Furthermore, extensive trade networks connected various parts of the subcontinent and even linked it to foreign markets. This variety of economic activities supported a growing population and facilitated the rise of powerful states and large cities, making it a highly sophisticated and interconnected system.

228. (D) Northern Black Polished Ware culture.

The Northern Black Polished Ware culture is the archaeological phase most directly associated with the Second Urbanization in Indian history. This period saw the rise of the sixteen Mahajanapadas and the growth of large, fortified cities like Kausambi and Pataliputra. The high-quality, lustrous ceramic itself is a hallmark of this era's technological advancement. While the PGW and Megalithic cultures are also Iron Age traditions, the NBPW phase represents the peak of urbanization and the establishment of complex state societies in the Ganga Valley.

229. (C) Ahichhatra

While Ahichhatra is a very important archaeological site with significant Iron Age and historical remains, it is not primarily known for providing revolutionary new evidence that redefines the antiquity of iron. In contrast, sites like Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila have gained specific scholarly fame for excavations that yielded exceptionally early radiocarbon dates for iron smelting and artifacts. These particular sites in the Ganga Valley have been central to the ongoing debate about pushing back the timeline of the Iron Age in India.

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230. (D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true.

Ujjain was much more than just a religious center; it was a major urban hub with significant political and economic importance. As the capital of the Avanti kingdom, it served as a vital political seat. Economically, its location on a key trade route made it a thriving commercial center. Furthermore, Ujjain was a renowned ancient center for astronomical studies, situated on the prime meridian of Indian astronomy. Therefore, the city's historical importance was multi-faceted, encompassing political, economic, scientific, and religious roles.

231. (D) The Megalithic culture of the south is chronologically entirely separate from the Iron Age of the north.

The claim that the Megalithic culture of the south is chronologically separate from the Iron Age of the north is incorrect. In fact, archaeological evidence shows that the Iron Age emerged in different parts of India at various times, but with significant overlaps. The earlier phases of the Megalithic tradition in the Peninsula were broadly contemporary with the Painted Grey Ware culture in the north. Both regions were undergoing similar transitions to iron technology during the same overall time period, although with distinct local manifestations.

232. (A) Pattanam

Taxila, Ujjain, and Vaisali are all famous as major urban capitals of important kingdoms or republics during the Early Historic period. In

246. (B) Harappan script seals

Megalithic burials in Peninsular India are known for a specific set of grave goods, including Black-and-Red ware pottery, various iron tools like tridents and spears, and ornaments like carnelian beads. However, Harappan script seals are not part of this cultural assemblage. Those seals are exclusively associated with the Bronze Age Indus Valley Civilization, which existed much earlier and in a different geographical region. There is no archaeological evidence of Harappan seals being used or placed in the much later Iron Age Megalithic burials of the south.

247. (D) Pattanam - A site showing evidence of maritime trade

Pattanam, located in modern-day Kerala, is an important archaeological site that has yielded significant proof of maritime trade, including Mediterranean artifacts. This pairing is correct. The other sites are misplaced: Atiranjikhera is an inland PGW/NBPW site, not a seaport; Nagarjunakonda is a major Buddhist center, not a primary PGW site; and Hasthinapur is a famous Iron Age urban hub, not a Megalithic burial complex. Correctly matching these sites with their primary characteristics is essential for understanding their specific historical and archaeological significance.

248. (A) maritime trade with the Roman world.

The discovery of items such as Roman coins, amphorae (used for wine and oil), and high-quality Arretine ware at Indian coastal sites is very significant. These artifacts were manufactured in the Mediterranean and their presence in India provides direct, material proof of regular and extensive maritime trade between the two regions. This sea commerce was a major part of the Early Historic economy, especially in South India. These findings allow archaeologists to reconstruct the scale, nature, and routes of ancient international trade networks.

249. (C) Nasik

Nasik is a historically important city in Maharashtra that is particularly well-known for its impressive rock-cut Buddhist caves, known as the Pandav Leni. These caves were carved out of the basalt cliffs and contain valuable inscriptions related to the Satavahana dynasty. They serve as a significant example of early rock-cut architecture and religious patronage in Western India. While the other sites mentioned are also important, Nasik is the one most specifically famous for its association with this particular type of historical monument.

250. (A) The Megalithic culture of the south was devoid of iron technology.

The claim that the Megalithic culture was devoid of iron technology is entirely incorrect. On the contrary, the use of iron is one of the most defining and essential features of the Megalithic tradition. Excavations of these burial monuments consistently reveal a wide array of iron artifacts, including swords, daggers, and agricultural implements. This mastery of metallurgy is what characterizes the culture as part of the Iron Age. The other statements about the distribution and chronology of Iron Age cultures in different regions are historically accurate.

251. (B) They have challenged and pushed back the established timeline for iron use.

Archaeological discoveries in Ganga Valley sites like Malhar and Raja Nal-ka-tila provide dates for iron use in the early second millennium BCE. This new evidence contradicts older chronologies that placed the Iron Age much later. These findings suggest that iron technology had a much earlier start in India than previously thought, requiring a significant chronological re-evaluation.

252. (A) Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila

The text explicitly mentions excavations at Malhar, Dadupur, and Raja Nal-ka-tila in the Ganga Valley. These sites are credited with yielding early dates for iron use. This specific group of sites serves as the primary archaeological basis for redefining the timeline of iron technology in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent during the second millennium BCE.

253. (C) The Megalithic context

Sites such as Hallur, Kumaranahalli, and Kodumanal are located in southern India. These specific locations are described as being associated with Megalithic contexts. These sites indicate that iron was a fundamental component of the material culture within these specific

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the capital of the Magadhan monarchy during the Early Historic period was Rajagriha and later Pataliputra. The other statements are correct: Kausambi was the capital of the Vatsa kingdom, Rajghat is the ancient site of Varanasi, and Taxila was a world-renowned center for higher education. Correctly identifying the political systems of these cities is essential for understanding ancient Indian history.

240. (B) the emergence of new political formations like the Mahajanapadas.

The Northern Black Polished Ware phase was a time of significant growth in both social and economic complexity. This increased organization directly supported the rise of larger territorial states known as Mahajanapadas. As agricultural surplus, craft specialization, and trade expanded, more complex political systems were needed to manage these resources and the growing urban populations. This period represents a move away from simpler tribal organizations toward the more formal and powerful monarchical and republican systems that would define the Early Historic era in North India.

241. (B) an underground chamber with a circular opening in one of its slabs.

A port-hole cist is a sophisticated type of Megalithic burial chamber. It is constructed as a box-like subterranean room made from large stone slabs. One of these slabs, typically a side wall, features a carefully cut circular hole known as a port-hole. This opening is believed to have served a ritual purpose, possibly for adding secondary burials or offerings over time. These structures are common in Peninsular India and represent the advanced architectural and funerary practices of the Iron Age communities in that region.

242. (A) It manifested differently in various regions, such as the PGW/NBPW cultures in the north and the Megalithic culture in the south.

The Iron Age in India was not a uniform or simultaneous event across the entire subcontinent. Instead, it showed significant regional variations in its material culture and development. In Northern India, the period is primarily identified through the sequence of Painted Grey Ware and Northern Black Polished Ware cultures. In the Peninsular region, it is most prominently represented by the distinct Megalithic tradition. These diverse manifestations highlight how different societies adopted and integrated iron technology into their own local cultural and environmental contexts.

243. (C) Chandarketugarh

Chandarketugarh is an important archaeological site in West Bengal that is particularly famous for its exquisite terracotta plaques and figurines from the Early Historic period. These artworks depict a wide range of subjects, including deities, animals, and scenes from daily life, and are renowned for their intricate detail and artistic skill. The abundance of these finds indicates that the site was a major center for both artistic production and trade in the lower Ganga delta, providing valuable insights into the culture of ancient Bengal.

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244. (D) key examples of the new urban centres that emerged in the Early Historic period.

Rajghat, Ujjain, Vaisali, Taxila, Mathura, Sravasti, and Kausambi were all prominent cities that flourished during the Early Historic period. They serve as primary archaeological and historical examples of the Second Urbanization in India. These cities were centers of political power, vibrant economic hubs for trade and craft, and significant religious and cultural sites. Their growth was supported by technological advancements and agricultural surplus, representing a shift toward a more complex, urban-based society that replaced the earlier, simpler rural settlements of the proto-historic period.

245. (C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false.

The Painted Grey Ware culture is indeed the primary archaeological phase associated with the early Iron Age in the Ganga Valley. However, the Northern Black Polished Ware culture is not associated with the much earlier Chalcolithic period. Instead, NBPW belongs to a later phase of the Iron Age and is a hallmark of the Early Historic period and the rise of urbanization. Correctly placing these ceramic traditions within the technological and chronological timeline is essential for understanding the progression from metallurgy to urbanization in India.

its predecessor. It extended from Taxila in the northwest all the way to Chandraketugarh in the east. It also reached as far south as Amaravati. This wide distribution demonstrates the expansive nature of the culture across many different regions of the Indian subcontinent during this period.

263. (C) The Second Urbanization and the rise of Mahajanapadas

This archaeological phase is closely associated with the period of the Mahajanapadas and the Mauryan Empire. It coincides with the Second Urbanization in India, a time of significant social and political transformation. The culture reflects the emergence of organized states and complex urban economies, marking a shift toward more centralized and stratified societal structures across the northern plains.

264. (D) The advent of coinage and construction of fortifications

Beyond pottery, this phase saw major advancements such as the introduction of coinage, specifically punch-marked coins. There was also a significant increase in the construction of fortifications. These developments occurred alongside the enhanced use of iron for warfare and agriculture. These features collectively signify the growth of complex urban centers and the emergence of organized state-level political entities.

265. (A) It possessed a sophisticated level of ceramic technology.

Producing NBPW required a high level of skill and technical knowledge. The pottery is described as a high-value item, which indicates that the society possessed sophisticated ceramic technology. This suggests a level of economic specialization where certain artisans could produce deluxe goods. Such items likely served as markers of status within a highly stratified and complex urban society.

266. (B) They were constructed primarily for funerary purposes.

Megalithic culture in Peninsular India is primarily defined by large stone monuments built for funerary purposes. These structures served as elaborate burial sites for the deceased. The diversity of these monuments, such as stone chambers and rock-cut caves, reflects regional traditions. They provide essential insights into the material culture, technology, and ritual practices concerning death during this period.

267. (B) Southern India

The Megalithic culture had a vast geographical presence across the southern part of India. This included modern states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra. While some manifestations exist elsewhere, this southern core region is where the phenomenon is most prominently represented. These sites are essential for understanding the Iron Age developments in the peninsula and beyond.

268. (A) Dolmenoid cists and urn burials

The burial monuments of the Megalithic tradition show remarkable variety in their form and structure. Examples mentioned include dolmenoid cists, which are box-like stone chambers, and urn burials marked by stone circles. Other forms like rock-cut caves and upright monolithic stones known as menhirs are also present. This diversity illustrates the varied social practices across different regions of India.

269. (C) It spans from the first millennium BCE to the early CE, overlapping with other periods.

The chronological range of the Megalithic culture is quite broad, typically spanning from the early first millennium BCE to the early centuries of the Common Era. This extensive timeline shows that the tradition overlapped with the late Chalcolithic and Early Historic periods. This long duration highlights its persistence as a significant cultural phenomenon across southern India for over a millennium.

270. (D) The primary evidence for material culture through grave goods

Burial sites are vital because the items buried with the dead, known as grave goods, offer direct evidence of the past. These artifacts reveal information about the material culture, technology, and beliefs of the people. Without written records, these archaeological findings are the primary source for understanding the daily lives, technology, and ritualistic views of these ancient Megalithic communities.

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36. Which deity is typically represented by an empty throne, a pair of footprints, or a Bodhi tree in early aniconic Buddhist art?
(A) Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara
(B) Maitreya, the future Buddha
(C) Bodhisattva Manjushri
(D) Shakyamuni Buddha

37. The Pala school of sculpture, which flourished in Bengal and Bihar, is known for its:
(A) Use of spotted red sandstone
(B) Lifelike portraiture and realistic depictions
(C) Highly polished black basalt stone and ornate detailing
(D) Simple and austere artistic style

38. The iconography of Kartikeya (Murugan) commonly includes which of the following as his vahan (mount)?
(A) A mouse
(B) A peacock
(C) A bull
(D) A swan

39. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic feature of Hoysala temple architecture?
(A) Star-shaped ground plan (stellate).
(B) Intricate and profuse sculptural decoration.
(C) Use of soft soapstone (chloritic schist).
(D) A towering, pyramidal vimana.

40. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Gupta period is often called the 'Golden Age' of Indian temple architecture.
Reason (R) : During this period, temple architecture transitioned from rock-cut caves to free-standing structural temples, establishing a foundational blueprint.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

41. Which of the following is considered a significant source for the study of Indian history, providing insights into religious beliefs, social structures, and artistic traditions?
(A) Epigraphical records only
(B) Architecture
(C) Numismatic evidence exclusively
(D) Foreign literary accounts alone

42. What is the 'pradakshinapatha' in the context of a stupa or temple?
(A) The circumambulatory passageway
(B) The main entrance gateway
(C) The sanctum sanctorum
(D) The spire or finial

43. Which dynasty patronized the great stupas at Sanchi and Bharhut, which involved significant additions and renovations to the original Mauryan structures?
(A) Kushanas
(B) Guptas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Shungas

44. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Brahmanical rock-cut architecture emerged significantly later than Buddhist rock-cut architecture.
Statement II : The Udayagiri caves (near Vidisha, MP) are among the earliest surviving examples of Brahmanical rock-cut shrines, dating to the Gupta period.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

45. Identify the characteristics of the Dravida style of temple architecture:
(i) The main tower, called a Vimana, is a stepped pyramid.
(ii) The temple complex is enclosed by a compound wall.
(iii) The entrance gateways, known as Gopurams, are often more imposing than the main shrine tower.
(iv) An amalaka and kalasha are absent from the top of the tower.
(v) The presence of a large water tank or temple pond is common.

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more centralized and complex form of social and political organization in India.

280. (D) Widespread maritime trade with Rome

The text attributes the rise of Gangetic cities to the interplay of technological advancement, agricultural expansion, and socio-political change. While trade was important, the passage does not mention widespread maritime trade specifically with Rome as a factor for the emergence of these early Ganga Valley cities. That development is typically associated with other regions or slightly later historical periods.

281. (A) It was driven by diverse factors like trade control and craft specialization.

Urbanism in Peninsular India was driven by a variety of factors that differed from the agricultural focus of the Ganga Valley. These included the control of important trade routes, access to valuable mineral resources, and specialized craft production. This diverse set of economic drivers created a distinct trajectory for urban development compared to the model found in northern India.

282. (B) Iron objects and semi-precious stone beads

Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu is identified as an important industrial center of the Early Historic period. It specialized in the production of iron objects and semi-precious stone beads. These items were likely high-demand goods traded over long distances. The site's industrial focus highlights the role of craft specialization in the urban process within the southern part of India.

283. (B) It was a fortified settlement functioning as a trade and manufacturing centre.

Satanikota, located in Andhra Pradesh on the banks of the Tungabhadra, was a fortified settlement. Its primary significance was as a center for trade and manufacturing. The presence of fortifications indicates a level of centralized authority and the need to protect economic activities. This site exemplifies the urban developments taking place in the peninsula during this early historic era.

284. (A) Internal exchange networks and maritime trade routes

The growth of urban centers in the peninsula was fostered by both internal and external trade. Internal exchange networks connected different parts of the subcontinent, while maritime trade routes linked the region to Southeast Asia and the Roman Empire. This combination of local and long-distance trade provided the economic momentum necessary for the development of these southern urban hubs.

285. (C) It was a mosaic of developments rooted in varied economic and geographical contexts.

The passage argues that the urban process in Peninsular India was not a uniform or singular event. Instead, it was a mosaic of different developments. These were shaped by various economic activities and geographical contexts, such as trade and resource access. This perspective emphasizes the complexity and diversity of urbanization across different regions of the southern Indian subcontinent.

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286. (D) An intensified agricultural base

The foundational surplus that drove the economy of the Early Historic period came from an intensified agricultural base. This intensification was made possible through the adoption and widespread use of iron technology. By producing more food than was immediately needed for survival, the society could support specialized workers and the growth of complex urban and political structures across India.

287. (C) Well-defined trade routes

The Uttarapatha and Dakshinapatha were major overland trade routes that connected various parts of the Indian subcontinent. These routes facilitated the large-scale movement of goods, people, and ideas across long distances. They are mentioned to illustrate the well-defined and developed nature of the exchange networks that existed during the Early Historic period, supporting economic growth and regional connectivity.

288. (B) The growth of long-distance maritime trade

A major development during this time was the expansion of maritime trade. Ports on the eastern and western coasts connected the Indian subcontinent to the Roman Empire and Southeast Asia. This long-distance sea trade provided new

primarily depict Jataka tales and scenes from the life of the Buddha.
Statement II : The Bagh caves, contemporary to Ajanta, are known for their purely decorative and non-narrative paintings.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

19. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of Pallava rock-cut architecture?
(A) Early phase characterized by pillar-halls called mandapas.
(B) Later phase characterized by monolithic shrines called rathas.
(C) The presence of a curvilinear shikhara, typical of the Nagara style.
(D) Extensive use of the barrel-vaulted roof (shala).

20. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Temple/Site)
P. Khajuraho Temples
Q. Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur
R. Kailasa Temple, Ellora
S. Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
List II: (Ruling Dynasty)
1. Chola
2. Rashtrakuta
3. Pallava
4. Chandela
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

21. The iconography of the Tirthankara Rishabhdev is often identified by which symbol (lanchhana)?
(A) A serpent
(B) A lion
(C) A bull
(D) A conch

22. The Sarnath school of sculpture, which flourished during the Gupta period, is particularly known for its:
(A) Use of spotted red sandstone and robust figures.
(B) Idealized, serene, and spiritually transcendent Buddha images.
(C) Dynamic and emotionally charged compositions.
(D) Fusion of Indian and Greco-Roman artistic elements.

23. Which of the following pairs of a deity and their characteristic attribute in iconography is incorrectly matched?
(A) Vishnu - Sudarshana Chakra
(B) Shiva - Trishula (Trident)
(C) Ganesha - Parashu (Axe)
(D) Brahma - Damaru (Drum)

24. The Vesara style of architecture is best described as a hybrid of which two major styles?
(A) Nagara and Dravida
(B) Nagara and Bhumija
(C) Dravida and Bhumija
(D) Mauryan and Gupta

25. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Chola period is noted for its magnificent bronze sculptures, especially the Nataraja image.
Reason (R) : The lost-wax (cire perdue) technique of bronze casting reached its zenith under the patronage of the Chola rulers.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

26. The famous rock-cut Kailasa temple at Ellora (Cave 16) was carved during the reign of which dynasty?
(A) Rashtrakutas
(B) Chalukyas of Badami
(C) Pallavas of Kanchi
(D) Guptas

27. The concept of 'Bodhisattva' in Buddhist art and iconography represents a being who:
(A) Has already attained final Nirvana and left

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These findings provide concrete evidence of the extensive maritime trade between the Indian subcontinent and the Roman Empire. The site serves as a crucial link for understanding ancient global trade networks and early maritime connectivity.

298. (B) It provides some of the earliest stratified evidence for iron in the Ganga Valley.

Atiranjikhera is particularly important because it has provided some of the earliest evidence for iron use in the Ganga Valley within a clear archaeological sequence. This stratified context is essential for accurately dating the introduction and development of iron technology in northern India. The site helps historians understand the timeline of technological changes that significantly influenced early Indian society.

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299. (B) Chandraketugarh

Chandraketugarh, located in the Bengal region, has yielded a vast collection of terracotta art. This rich repository suggests that the site was home to a vibrant and artistically active urban culture. The abundance of these artifacts provides insights into the aesthetic preferences, social life, and craft traditions of the people living in this specific eastern part of the subcontinent.

300. (A) That various sites offer specific insights into diverse aspects like technology, trade, and craft.

By highlighting diverse locations like Sringaverpura, Arikamedu, and Kodumanal, the passage illustrates how different sites offer unique insights into various aspects of ancient life. These include achievements in technology, trade, and craft production. Collectively, these sites show that historical India was a place of diverse developments and sophisticated systems across many different regions and specialized urban centers.

CHAPTER 07

Architecture, Art, & Iconography

1. Which of the following is considered a significant source for the study of Indian history, providing insights into religious beliefs, social structures, and artistic traditions?
(A) Epigraphical records only
(B) Architecture
(C) Numismatic evidence exclusively
(D) Foreign literary accounts alone

2. In the context of Stupa architecture, what is the hemispherical dome, which represents the infinite dome of heaven, called?
(A) Anda
(B) Medhi
(C) Harmika
(D) Chhatra

3. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The origin of the stupa is primarily associated with the pre-Buddhist practice of erecting mounds over the relics of the dead.
Statement II : All stupas in India, without exception, contain relics of the Buddha or Buddhist saints.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

4. The development of rock-cut architecture in India was initially patronized by which of the following dynasties for the Ajivika sect?
(A) The Guptas
(B) The Satavahanas
(C) The Kushanas
(D) The Mauryas

5. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Architectural Style)
P. Nagara
Q. Dravida
R. Vesara
S. Bhumija
List II: (Characteristic Feature)
1. Pyramidal tower or Vimana
2. Miniature shrine motif arranged in vertical bands on the Shikhara
3. Hybrid style combining Nagara and Dravida elements
4. Curvilinear tower or Shikhara
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

6. Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the origin and development of temple architecture in India?
(A) The earliest temples were often made of perishable materials like wood and brick.
(B) Temple architecture evolved independently without any influence from rock-cut traditions.
(C) The practice of idol worship gave a significant impetus to the construction of temples.
(D) The Gupta period is often considered the formative stage of structural temple architecture.

7. The Mauryan pillar capitals are renowned for their distinctive polish, often referred to as:
(A) Ochre polish
(B) Terracotta glaze
(C) Hellenistic varnish
(D) NBPW (Northern Black Polished Ware) finish

8. Arrange the following developments in Indian art in chronological order of their appearance:
(i) The Sarnath School of sculpture
(ii) Mauryan pillar capitals
(iii) Gandhara School of art
(iv) Bharhut and Sanchi sculptures (Shunga)

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(A) II, IV, III, I
(B) I, II, III, IV
(C) II, III, IV, I
(D) IV, II, I, III

9. Which of the following is NOT a feature typically associated with early Yaksha-Yakshi images?
(A) Monumental size and volume
(B) A frontal posture
(C) A highly spiritual and transcendent expression
(D) Association with folk cults and nature spirits

10. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Gandhara school of sculpture shows strong Hellenistic and Roman influences.
Reason (R) : The region of Gandhara was a crossroads of cultures due to its location on major trade routes and Alexander's invasion.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

11. What is the primary material used in the Mathura school of sculpture during the Kushana period?
(A) Blue-grey schist stone
(B) White marble
(C) Bronze
(D) Spotted red sandstone

12. In the context of Buddhist iconography, Tara is primarily revered as a:
(A) Female Buddha
(B) Bodhisattva of compassion
(C) Guardian deity of monasteries
(D) Disciple of Mahavira

13. Read the following statements about terracotta art from the Mauryan to the Gupta period and select the correct option:
(A) Terracotta art was exclusively used for religious purposes.
(B) Gupta period terracottas show a decline in refinement compared to the Mauryan period.
(C) Terracotta figurines were often mould-made, allowing for mass production.
(D) The use of terracotta was limited strictly to the Gangetic valley regions.

14. The rock-cut cave paintings at Sittanavasal are primarily associated with which religion?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Brahmanism
(C) Ajivika sect
(D) Jainism

15. Identify the key features of the Nagara style of temple architecture:
(i) A curvilinear spire called Shikhara.
(ii) Large water tanks within the temple complex.
(iii) An amalaka crowning the shikhara.
(iv) A single, towering gateway known as a Gopuram.
(v) The placement of the main shrine on a raised platform (jagati).
(A) I, II, and IV only
(B) I, III, and V only
(C) II, IV, and V only
(D) I, II, III, and IV

16. What does the term 'Garbhagriha' signify in the context of Indian temple architecture?
(A) The main assembly hall for devotees
(B) The sanctum sanctorum where the main deity is housed
(C) The circumambulatory path
(D) The entrance porch of the temple

17. Which Chalukyan ruler was responsible for the construction of the Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal, modeled on the Kailasanatha temple of Kanchipuram?
(A) Pulakeshin II
(B) Vikramaditya II
(C) Kirtivarman I
(D) Mangalesha

18. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The rock-cut caves at Ajanta

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271. (C) Black-and-Red Ware

A standard ceramic type found in Megalithic burials is known as Black-and-Red Ware. This pottery is a consistent feature across these funerary sites. It appears alongside numerous iron artifacts, indicating the technological level of the society. The presence of this specific ware helps archaeologists identify and categorize sites belonging to the Megalithic tradition within the southern Indian peninsula.

272. (B) Iron played a transformative role in agriculture, crafts, and warfare.

The discovery of diverse iron tools, including agricultural implements like sickles and weapons like swords, shows the importance of metallurgy. These items indicate that iron had a transformative effect on agriculture, crafts, and warfare. The society was not just using iron in a basic way but had integrated it deeply into various sectors of their life and social structure.

273. (D) A degree of social organization and community effort

Constructing large stone monuments required significant effort in quarrying, transporting, and erecting the stones. This level of work suggests that the communities were well-organized and capable of collective labor. Such efforts were likely coordinated by a chieftain or an elite group. This implies a degree of social organization and community effort within these complex, iron-using Megalithic societies.

274. (A) A belief in an afterlife where such items would be needed

The practice of placing tools, weapons, and pottery in graves suggests specific religious or ritualistic views. It is interpreted as evidence of a belief in an afterlife where the deceased would continue to need these items. This indicates that the Megalithic people had a developed conceptual framework regarding death and the potential needs of individuals in the next world.

275. (C) A subject of ongoing debate, though evidence points to complex, iron-using communities.

Archaeologists continue to debate the exact identity of the people who created the Megalithic monuments. Evidence indicates they were complex, iron-using communities with developed material cultures, but whether they were primarily pastoralists or agriculturalists remains unclear. The archaeological record points to social stratification and sophisticated beliefs, even if their precise professional identity is still a subject of ongoing debate.

276. (A) The Second Urbanization

The period marked by the rise of urban centers in the Ganga Valley is widely known as the Second Urbanization. This transformation followed the earlier urbanization of the Indus Valley. It involved the emergence of cities as hubs of political, economic, and religious activity. This process was deeply connected to technological changes and the large-scale expansion of agricultural production.

277. (D) It enabled forest clearance and cultivation of heavy alluvial soil.

Iron technology played a critical role in transforming the landscape of the Ganga Valley. The use of iron axes allowed for the clearing of dense forests, while iron ploughshares made it possible to cultivate heavy alluvial soils. These advancements led to a significant increase in agricultural productivity, creating the surplus needed to sustain growing urban populations and complex states.

278. (B) support a non-food-producing population.

An agricultural surplus is essential for urbanization because it allows for the growth of a non-food-producing population. This includes various social groups such as artisans, traders, soldiers, and administrators who live in cities. Without a steady supply of extra food from rural areas, these specialized urban roles and complex state structures could not be supported or effectively maintained.

279. (C) Organized state-level polities known as Mahajanapadas

The rise of prominent cities like Kausambi and Sravasti took place alongside the development of Mahajanapadas. These were organized, state-level polities that moved beyond simpler, kin-based social structures. These cities served as fortified hubs of political authority and economic exchange. They represented the transition to a

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the mortal world.
(B) Represents a historical Buddha who existed in a previous eon.
(C) Serves as a guardian deity assigned to protect a sacred stupa.
(D) Postpones nirvana to help others gain spiritual enlightenment.

28. Identify which of the following are correctly identified as structural stupas, as opposed to rock-cut stupas:
(i) Sanchi Stupa
(ii) Bhaja Stupa
(iii) Amaravati Stupa
(iv) Karle Stupa
(A) I and II only
(B) II and IV only
(C) I and III only
(D) III and IV only

29. Which of the following statements about the Khajuraho temples is incorrect?
(A) They were built by the Chandela rulers.
(B) The temples are known for their erotic sculptures.
(C) They are exclusively dedicated to Shaivism.
(D) The temples are built on a high platform (jagati).

30. Consider the features of temples in Odisha:
(i) The main temple is known as the deul.
(ii) The assembly hall is known as the jagamohana.
(iii) The shikhara (rekha deul) is nearly vertical before curving sharply at the top.
(iv) They do not have boundary walls or gateways.
(A) I and IV only
(B) II and III only
(C) I, II, and III only
(D) II, III, and IV only

31. In the iconography of Surya, the Sun God is typically depicted:
(A) Riding a chariot drawn by seven horses
(B) Seated on a lion
(C) Holding a trident and a drum
(D) In a meditative posture under a tree

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32. What is a defining feature of the Bhumija temple style, a sub-style of Nagara architecture?
(A) A large, barrel-vaulted roof over the mandapa.
(B) A shikhara composed of miniature motifs in vertical bands.
(C) The vimana is a stepped pyramid.
(D) The temple lacks a raised platform.

33. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Satavahana sculptures, as seen at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda, show a preference for narrative panels depicting Jataka tales.
Statement II : Satavahana art is characterized by slender, elegant figures in dynamic and often crowded compositions.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

34. The 'harmika' in a stupa is:
(A) The square railing-like structure on top of the dome
(B) The gateway leading to the circumambulatory path
(C) The railing enclosing the stupa mound
(D) The triple umbrella structure crowning the stupa

35. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Rock-cut Site)
P. Ellora
Q. Ajanta
R. Udayagiri-Khandagiri (Odisha)
S. Elephanta
List II: (Primary Religious Affiliation)
1. Exclusively Buddhist
2. Primarily Jain
3. Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jain
4. Primarily Brahmanical (Shaivite)
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4
(D) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

markets and resources, significantly contributing to the economic dynamism and complexity of the period. It linked India to a much wider global network.

289. (D) The emergence of coinage

The expansion of trade during the Early Historic period was supported by several factors, including the emergence of coinage. The use of coins, such as punch-marked coins, facilitated easier and more standardized transactions. Other contributing factors included political patronage from rising states and the development of a professional merchant class, which helped organize and manage regional and international commerce.

290. (A) characterized by multiple modes of production and expanding trade.

The passage describes the economy of this period as dynamic and complex. It was characterized by multiple modes of production, including agriculture and specialized crafts. This was further enhanced by the significant expansion of both overland and maritime trade networks. Collectively, these factors provided the material resources and connectivity required to sustain the burgeoning urban centers and states in India.

291. (C) Taxila

Taxila is highlighted as a city of great importance located in the northwest. It was a renowned center for learning and served as a major confluence of different cultures. Furthermore, its strategic location made it a crucial hub on the overland trade routes that connected the Indian subcontinent with Central Asia, facilitating the exchange of goods and diverse ideas.

292. (A) Religious art

Mathura, located in the Gangetic heartland, was a significant political and economic center. However, it gained particular renown as a major hub for religious art. This included artistic traditions associated with Buddhism, Jainism, and Brahmanism. This cultural specialization gave the city a unique identity as a focal point for religious expression and artistic production during the early historic period.

293. (D) Ujjain

Ujjain occupied a strategic position in central India, which allowed it to connect the Ganga Valley with the ports on the western coast. This location made it an essential center for both politics and commerce. Its role in facilitating trade between the interior heartland and maritime trade networks is well-documented in historical texts from that era of Indian history.

294. (B) Being a formidable fortified city with a sophisticated layout

Sisupalgarh is a notable site on the eastern coast in present-day Odisha. It is distinguished by its sophisticated urban planning, which included a formidable fortification and advanced hydraulic structures. These features indicate a high degree of centralized organization and engineering skill. The city stands as a prime example of complex urban development and planning in ancient Indian history.

295. (C) Each city had a unique identity despite sharing common urban traits.

The passage emphasizes that while important cities shared common urban characteristics, each one possessed a unique identity. These identities were shaped by specific geographical locations, political histories, and economic specializations. Whether as a center of learning, religious art, or strategic trade, each city played a distinct role in the broader urban and cultural landscape of Early Historic India.

296. (D) Its elaborate hydraulic engineering and water management system

Sringaverpura is noted for its advanced hydraulic engineering and water management. The site features a massive tank complex designed to desalinate and store the floodwaters of the Ganga River. This achievement showcases the high level of technical skill and planning involved in managing water resources to support the needs of the community during this significant Early Historic period of India.

297. (A) Roman trading station evidencing maritime trade.

Arikamedu is internationally famous in archaeology for being a Roman trading station. Excavations there have uncovered wharfs, warehouses, and Roman artifacts like amphorae.

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(A) I, III, and V only
(B) I, II, III, and V only
(C) II, IV, and V only
(D) I, II, and IV only

46. The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is a classic example of temple architecture from which period?
(A) Mauryan period
(B) Chola period
(C) Pallava period
(D) Gupta period

47. The distinctive feature of sculptures from the Western Kshatrapa period is:
(A) Memorial stones called 'lashtis' with portrait figures
(B) The exclusive use of bronze for all images
(C) The aniconic representation of all deities
(D) The heavy influence of the Pala school of art

48. The concept of 'Shakti' in Hindu iconography represents:
(A) The ascetic and meditative aspect of a male deity.
(B) The dynamic female energy personified as a consort.
(C) The preserving force governing the material universe.
(D) The protective guardian of the four cardinal directions.

49. Which of the following is NOT a site of Mauryan pillar capitals?
(A) Sarnath
(B) Amaravati
(C) Rampurva
(D) Lauriya Nandangarh

50. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Deity)
P. Ganesha
Q. Vishnu
R. Tirthankara Parshvanath
S. Buddha (Sarnath)
List II: (Iconographic Identification)
1. Padmasana with Dharmachakra mudra
2. Serpent hood canopy
3. Ekadanta (one tusk) and modaka (sweet)
4. Sheshashayana (reclining on a serpent)
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

51. The colossal monolithic statue of Gommateshwara at Shravanabelagola is a prime example of sculpture related to which religious tradition?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Jainism
(D) Vaishnavism

52. The 'lost-wax' technique is most famously associated with the creation of which type of art?
(A) Terracotta sculptures
(B) Rock-cut reliefs
(C) Fresco paintings
(D) Bronze sculptures

53. Which of the following is a key distinguishing feature between North Indian (Nagara) and South Indian (Dravida) stupa architecture?
(A) North Indian stupas lack a harmika.
(B) North Indian stupas are always rock-cut.
(C) South Indian stupas have an ayaka platform with five pillars.
(D) South Indian stupas do not have a pradakshinapatha.

54. The Kandariya Mahadeva temple, a magnificent example of Chandela architecture, is located at which site?
(A) Odisha
(B) Khajuraho
(C) Mahabalipuram
(D) Ellora

55. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Rock-cut architecture involves carving structures out of solid natural rock.
Reason (R) : This technique was less durable and more expensive than constructing free-standing buildings with stone blocks.

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(i) It used Chunar sandstone as its primary medium.
(ii) Buddha images are depicted with transparent drapery, revealing the form of the body.
(iii) The figures often have a serene, introspective expression with downcast eyes.
(iv) The halo around the Buddha's head is usually plain and unadorned.
(v) It shows heavy influence from the Gandhara school in its portrayal of muscular bodies.
(A) I, II, and III only
(B) II, III, and V only
(C) I, IV, and V only
(D) II, III, and IV only

76. Who among the following is NOT one of the Tirthankaras?
(A) Rishabhdev
(B) Neminath
(C) Parshvanath
(D) Mahavira

77. The 'panchayatana' style of temple architecture refers to:
(A) A temple with five shikharas.
(B) A temple built with five types of stone.
(C) A main shrine surrounded by four subsidiary shrines.
(D) An assembly hall with five pillars.

78. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The origin of the Dravida style of temple architecture can be traced to the monolithic rathas of Mahabalipuram.
Statement II : The rathas of Mahabalipuram were commissioned by the Chola dynasty.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

79. The iconography of the deity 'Shakti' encompasses all of the following forms EXCEPT:
(A) Surya
(B) Durga
(C) Kali
(D) Parvati

80. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Art/Architectural Site)
P. Sittanavasal Caves
Q. Bagh Caves
R. Hoysaleswara Temple
S. Sun Temple, Konark
List II: (Location - Modern State)
1. Madhya Pradesh
2. Odisha
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Karnataka
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

81. The main artistic contribution of the Western Kshatrapas is found in the form of:
(A) Large structural temples
(B) Memorial pillars ('lashtis') with inscriptions and portraits
(C) Elaborate rock-cut chaityas
(D) Bronze sculptures of Buddhist deities

82. In the development of rock-cut architecture, which phase saw the creation of structures for Brahmanical and Jain use alongside Buddhist ones?
(A) The post-Gupta phase (e.g., Ellora)
(B) The Mauryan phase
(C) The early Satavahana phase
(D) The Shunga phase

83. Which of the following correctly identifies an architectural feature that is characteristic of the Vesara style?
(A) The tiered and highly pyramidal vimana used in the Dravida style.
(B) The purely curvilinear shikhara found in standard Nagara styles.
(C) A Dravida-style plan with a Nagara-style superstructure.
(D) The exclusive use of burnt brick as the primary building material.

84. The Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur, an architectural marvel of the Chola period, is dedicated to which deity?
(A) Vishnu

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S. Vimana

List II: (Description)

1. The towering gateway in a Dravida temple
2. The pyramidal tower over the Garbhagriha in a Dravida temple
3. The raised platform on which a Nagara temple is built
4. The notched stone disc crowning the shikhara of a Nagara temple

(A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

66. Which one of the following is an example of an early Gupta period structural temple?
(A) Temple No. 17 at Sanchi
(B) Kailasa temple, Ellora
(C) Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
(D) Lingaraja Temple, Bhubaneswar

67. The famous 'Descent of the Ganga' or 'Arjuna's Penance' is a gigantic open-air bas-relief from the:
(A) Chalukyan period at Pattadakal
(B) Chandela period at Khajuraho
(C) Pallava period at Mahabalipuram
(D) Gupta period at Udayagiri

68. Which of the following statements about terracotta art during the Gupta period is most accurate?
(A) It was a folk art with no classical influence.
(B) It was used primarily for making bricks for large temples.
(C) It ceased to exist due to the prominence of stone sculpture.
(D) It produced large panels for decorating brick temples.

69. The main difference between a Chaitya and a Vihara in Buddhist rock-cut architecture is:
(A) A Chaitya serves as a dedicated hall for Hinayana practitioners.
(B) A Vihara acts exclusively as a sanctuary for Mahayana icons.
(C) A Chaitya is a prayer hall, while a Vihara is a monastery.
(D) A Vihara is a residence built specifically for high-ranking monks.

70. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The temples of Odisha, like the Lingaraja temple, represent a distinct sub-style of Nagara architecture.
Reason (R) : They feature a unique shikhara (rekha deul) and a separate assembly hall (jagamohana), but they do not use the amalaka.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

71. The famous bronze image of Nataraja, representing Shiva as the lord of the dance, is a masterpiece of which artistic tradition?
(A) Gupta art
(B) Pallava art
(C) Hoysala art
(D) Chola art

72. In the context of Vishnu's iconography, the 'Kaumodaki' is the name of his:
(A) Mace (Gada)
(B) Conch (Shankha)
(C) Discus (Chakra)
(D) Lotus (Padma)

73. All of the following are examples of Buddhist rock-cut caves EXCEPT:
(A) Ajanta
(B) Karle
(C) Udayagiri (near Vidisha)
(D) Bhaja

74. The art of the Satavahana period, particularly at Amaravati, is noted for its use of:
(A) Palnad marble (a type of limestone)
(B) Black basalt
(C) Spotted red sandstone
(D) Blue-grey schist

75. Identify the statements that correctly describe the Sarnath school of Gupta sculpture:

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creating the first images of the Buddha.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

135. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Sun Temple at Konark is conceived as a colossal chariot for the Sun God, Surya.
Reason (R) : The temple is built on a high platform with 24 giant wheels and is shown as being pulled by seven horses.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

136. Which dynasty is credited with initiating the Dravidian style of temple architecture with their rock-cut and structural temples at Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram?
(A) Pallavas
(B) Cholas
(C) Pandyas
(D) Cheras

137. The 'Bhumisparsha mudra' in Buddha iconography, where the right hand touches the earth, symbolizes:
(A) The act of teaching the first sermon.
(B) The gesture of reassurance and protection.
(C) The moment of calling the Earth to witness his enlightenment.
(D) The state of meditation.

138. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Hoysala temples?
(A) Massive and imposing gopurams
(B) Intricate and profuse sculptural decoration
(C) Use of soft soapstone
(D) Stellate or star-shaped ground plans

139. The rock-cut caves at Bagh in Madhya Pradesh are most famous for their:
(A) Jaina sculptures
(B) Elaborate stupas
(C) Inscriptions of the Mauryan period
(D) Vibrant mural paintings depicting secular life

140. Which of the following sites contains rock-cut architecture associated with all three ancient Indian religions: Buddhism, Brahmanism, and Jainism?
(A) Ajanta
(B) Ellora
(C) Bhaja
(D) Karle

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141. The origin and development of temples in India are closely linked to the rise of which religious practice?
(A) Vedic sacrificial rituals (yajna)
(B) Asceticism and meditation
(C) The Bhakti movement and idol worship
(D) The Ajivika philosophical tradition

142. The main deity in the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur is:
(A) A massive stone image of Vishnu.
(B) An elaborate bronze sculpture of Nataraja.
(C) An image of the Goddess Durga.
(D) A colossal Shiva Linga.

143. The art of the Pala dynasty, executed in black basalt, primarily reflected the themes of:
(A) Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism
(B) Hinayana Buddhism exclusively.
(C) Jain Tirthankaras and their lives.
(D) Secular courtly scenes.

144. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The bronze sculptures of the Chola period were made using the 'lost-wax' or 'cire-perdue' process.
Statement II : The Chola Nataraja image symbolizes the cosmic cycles of creation, preservation, and destruction.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

(B) Brahma
(C) Surya
(D) Shiva

85. Identify the correct statements about the Mathura School of art:
(i) It primarily used local spotted red sandstone.
(ii) It produced images for all three major religions: Buddhism, Jainism, and Brahmanism.
(iii) The Buddha images are characterized by robust, fleshy bodies and shaven heads or snail-shell curls.
(iv) It showed no indigenous influence and was purely a derivative of the Gandhara style.
(A) I and IV only
(B) II and III only
(C) I, II, and III only
(D) I, II, III, and IV

86. What is the symbolic meaning of the Chhatra (umbrella) placed at the apex of a stupa?
(A) It represents the monastic community (Sangha).
(B) It symbolizes royalty and protection for the sacred relics within.
(C) It signifies the path to enlightenment.
(D) It represents the earth element.

87. Which of the following is a defining feature of Mauryan terracotta art?
(A) The use of moulds for mass production.
(B) Large, life-sized figures with monumental quality.
(C) Highly polished surfaces similar to Mauryan stone sculpture.
(D) Hand-modelled figurines often representing mother goddesses.

88. The rock-cut caves at Sittanavasal are renowned for their paintings depicting:
(A) A Samavasarana scene with a lotus pond
(B) Scenes from the life of the Buddha
(C) The courtly life of Pallava kings
(D) Episodes from the Mahabharata

89. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Shunga period art at sites like Bharhut represents a continuation and development of indigenous artistic traditions.
Statement II : Shunga sculptures typically exhibit more narrative clarity and compositional complexity compared to Mauryan art.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

90. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Kailasa temple at Ellora is a unique architectural achievement as it is a monolithic structure, carved top-down from a single rock.
Reason (R) : This method of construction was a direct continuation of the techniques used for building structural temples like those at Khajuraho.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

91. The seven monolithic shrines at Mahabalipuram, known as the 'Seven Rathas', are attributed to the patronage of which dynasty?
(A) Cholas
(B) Pandyas
(C) Chalukyas
(D) Pallavas

92. The icon of a Bodhisattva holding a lotus (Padma) in his hand is identified as:
(A) Manjushri
(B) Avalokiteshvara (Padmapani)
(C) Vajrapani
(D) Maitreya

93. The temples of Odisha, such as the Lingaraja and Sun Temple, belong to which major architectural style?
(A) Dravida
(B) Vesara
(C) Nagara (Kalinga sub-style)
(D) Bhumija

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(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

56. In the iconography of Brahma, which of the following is NOT a standard attribute?
(A) A third eye (trinetra)
(B) Four heads (chaturmukha)
(C) A water pot (kamandalu)
(D) A rosary (akshamala)

57. The 'torana' in the context of a Sanchi stupa refers to the:
(A) Hemispherical dome
(B) Upper circumambulatory path
(C) Elaborately carved gateway
(D) Crowning umbrella

58. Arrange the following dynasties, known for their distinct temple architecture, in chronological order:
(i) Chola
(ii) Pallava
(iii) Rashtrakuta
(iv) Chalukya of Badami
(A) IV, II, III, I
(B) II, IV, I, III
(C) IV, III, II, I
(D) I, III, II, IV

59. Which school of art is credited with creating the first anthropomorphic images of the Buddha?
(A) Sarnath school during the Gupta period.
(B) Mauryan school under Ashoka's patronage.
(C) Pala school in Eastern India.
(D) Gandhara and Mathura schools.

60. Identify the correct statements about Pala sculpture:
(i) It primarily flourished in the regions of Bengal and Bihar.
(ii) The main materials used were black basalt and metal.
(iii) The sculptures often depict both Buddhist and Brahmanical deities.
(iv) It is characterized by a simple, unadorned, and rustic style.
(A) I and II only
(B) I, II, and III only
(C) III and IV only
(D) I, II, III and IV

61. What is the most prominent theme depicted in the sculptures of the Hoysala temples?
(A) Intricate scenes depicted from the sacred Buddhist Jataka tales.
(B) Formal portraits representing the various Hoysala kings and queens.
(C) Elaborate depictions of Hindu epics and Puranic female figures.
(D) Abstract and geometric patterns used for decorative borders only.

62. The Tirthankara Mahavira is identified in iconography by which symbol (lanchhana)?
(A) Bull
(B) Elephant
(C) Conch
(D) Lion

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63. The murals of Ajanta were painted using which technique?
(A) Fresco-secco (tempera)
(B) True fresco (fresco-buono)
(C) Oil on canvas
(D) Encaustic painting

64. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Chalukyas of Badami developed a unique style of temple architecture, experimenting with both Nagara and Dravida forms.
Statement II : The site of Pattadakal, a Chalukyan center, features temples in both the northern and southern styles.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

65. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Architectural Term)
P. Amalaka
Q. Gopuram
R. Jagati

104. Which of the following is the most appropriate description of the sculptural style of the Chandela period as seen at Khajuraho?
(A) Elongated, graceful, and dynamic figures
(B) Austere and minimalistic
(C) Heavy and monumental figures
(D) Abstract and non-representational

105. Identify common attributes associated with the iconography of Shiva:
(i) The river Ganga flowing from his matted locks (jata).
(ii) A crescent moon (chandra) on his head.
(iii) A serpent (naga) around his neck.
(iv) A third eye (trinetra) on his forehead.
(v) The Sudarshana Chakra.
(A) I, II, III, and V only
(B) II, III, IV, and V only
(C) I, II, III, and IV only
(D) I, III, and V only

106. The use of soft soapstone (chloritic schist) allowed for extremely fine and intricate carving, a hallmark of which regional sculptural style?
(A) Hoysala sculpture
(B) Chola sculpture
(C) Pala sculpture
(D) Gupta sculpture

107. The paintings in the rock-cut caves of Ajanta span several centuries and are associated with which religion?
(A) Jainism
(B) Brahmanism
(C) A mix of all three religions
(D) Buddhism

108. Arrange the following rock-cut sites in the correct chronological order of their initial development:
(i) Ellora (Brahmanical caves)
(ii) Ajanta (early Hinayana caves)
(iii) Lomas Rishi Cave (Barabar Hills)
(iv) Mahabalipuram (Rathas)
(A) III, II, I, IV
(B) I, II, III, IV
(C) III, I, II, IV
(D) II, III, IV, I

109. What is the 'medhi' in the context of stupa architecture?
(A) The crowning umbrella element
(B) The hemispherical dome
(C) The circular terrace supporting the dome
(D) The gateway

110. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The temple architecture of the Chalukyas of Badami is often considered experimental.
Reason (R) : At sites like Aihole and Pattadakal, they built temples incorporating features from both the Nagara and Dravida styles, sometimes in the same complex.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

111. Which of the following Tirthankaras is considered the first in the Jain tradition?
(A) Rishabhdev
(B) Mahavira
(C) Parshvanath
(D) Ajitanath

112. The distinctive features of Chola temple architecture include:
(A) Star-shaped plans and soapstone material
(B) Massive vimanas and elaborate gopurams
(C) Curvilinear shikhara and a high jagati
(D) Monolithic carving and small-scale shrines

113. The transition from symbolic (aniconic) to figurative (iconic) representation of the Buddha is a major development associated with which period?
(A) Mauryan
(B) Kushana
(C) Shunga
(D) Gupta

114. Which statement about early Yaksha-Yakshi images is incorrect?

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(A) They were exclusively associated with the Buddhist faith
(B) They are often colossal in size.
(C) They are considered early monumental stone sculptures.
(D) They represent an indigenous folk tradition.

115. Identify the main themes of the paintings in the Bagh caves:
(i) Jataka tales and life of Buddha.
(ii) Scenes of courtly life and processions.
(iii) Musical and dance performances.
(iv) Portraits of Gupta emperors.
(v) Jain Samavasarana scenes.
(A) I and V only
(B) II and III only
(C) I, II and IV only
(D) IV and V only

116. The concept of a temple being a model of the cosmos, with the shikhara representing Mount Meru, is central to the philosophy of which architectural style?
(A) Mauryan palatial architecture
(B) Harappan urban planning
(C) Buddhist vihara design
(D) Nagara temple architecture

117. What distinguishes Brahmanical rock-cut shrines from Buddhist Chaitya halls?
(A) Brahmanical shrines are always constructed with a circular floor plan.
(B) Brahmanical shrines contain no decorative pillars or mandapa halls.
(C) Brahmanical shrines are centered around a garbha-griha for an idol.
(D) Brahmanical shrines were never carved into the sides of natural hills.

118. The development of distinct architectural styles like Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara primarily pertains to the evolution of:
(A) Stupa architecture
(B) Temple architecture
(C) Palace architecture
(D) Rock-cut cave dwellings

119. The 'mandapa' in a temple serves as the:
(A) Sanctum sanctorum
(B) Base platform
(C) Finial on top of the tower
(D) Porch or assembly hall for devotees

120. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Sculptural School/Style)
P. Gandhara School
Q. Mathura School
R. Pala School
S. Hoysala School
List II: (Characteristic Material)
1. Spotted red sandstone
2. Chloritic schist (Soapstone)
3. Blue-grey schist
4. Black basalt
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

121. The serene and spiritually enlightened Buddha image of the Sarnath school is a hallmark of which period's art?
(A) Kushana
(B) Mauryan
(C) Gupta
(D) Shunga

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122. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Mauryan pillar capitals, such as the lion capital at Sarnath, were monolithic, carved from a single block of stone.
Statement II : These pillars were erected to commemorate victories in war and had no religious significance.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

123. The iconography of Ganesha is characterized by an elephant head and a pot-belly. What is his vahana (mount)?
(A) A peacock
(B) A swan
(C) A lion
(D) A mouse or shrew

124. The term 'Tirthankara' in Jainism refers to:

(A) A monastic preceptor
(B) A spiritual teacher who has conquered rebirth
(C) A celestial deity who guards the cosmos
(D) A lay follower of the Jain faith

125. Identify which of the following are correctly identified as key components of Stupa architecture:
(i) Anda
(ii) Harmika
(iii) Chhatra
(iv) Gopuram
(v) Garbhagriha
(A) I, II, and III only
(B) I, IV, and V only
(C) II, III, and IV only
(D) I, III, and V only

126. The sculptures of the Satavahana period at Amaravati are particularly noted for:
(A) Static and rigid postures
(B) The use of Hellenistic drapery
(C) Monumental and imposing size
(D) Slender figures in complex compositions

127. Which of the following is an example of a Jain rock-cut cave site?
(A) Udayagiri and Khandagiri in Odisha
(B) Ajanta
(C) Karle
(D) Bagh

128. What is the primary difference in the form of the main tower between the Nagara and Dravida styles?
(A) The Nagara tower is a stepped pyramid, while the Dravida tower is curvilinear.
(B) The Nagara tower is curvilinear, while the Dravida tower is a stepped pyramid.
(C) The Nagara tower is always shorter than the Dravida tower.
(D) The Nagara tower is made of brick, while the Dravida tower is made of stone.

129. The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram, built by the Pallavas, is a significant example because:
(A) It is the largest monolithic temple in the world.
(B) It is one of the earliest structural temples in South India.
(C) It is exclusively dedicated to Vishnu.
(D) It is a classic example of the Vesara style.

130. Identify which of the following statements about terracotta art are correct:
(i) It was an art form accessible to the common people due to its low-cost material.
(ii) Mauryan terracottas were typically hand-modelled and archaic in style.
(iii) Gupta terracottas reached a high degree of sophistication and were used for temple decoration.
(iv) The use of moulds became common in the post-Mauryan period for producing terracottas.
(A) I and II only
(B) III and IV only
(C) I, II, and III only
(D) I, II, III, and IV

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131. In iconography, which Tirthankara is associated with a bull emblem?
(A) Parshvanath
(B) Mahavira
(C) Rishabhdev
(D) Neminath

132. The paintings at Sittanavasal in Tamil Nadu are primarily associated with:
(A) Buddhist Jataka tales
(B) Shaivite mythology
(C) The courtly life of the Cholas
(D) Jain religious themes

133. The 'tribhanga' pose, a three-bend posture of the body, is a common feature in:
(A) Mauryan pillar capitals
(B) Indus Valley seals
(C) Classical and medieval Indian sculpture
(D) Gandhara Buddha images

134. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Gandhara and Mathura schools of art developed largely independent of each other with no cross-influences.
Statement II : Both schools emerged during the Kushana period and were instrumental in

94. Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding the Gandhara School of art?
(A) It flourished in the north-western region of the Indian subcontinent.
(B) It primarily used blue-grey schist stone.
(C) It depicted the Buddha with Hellenistic features like wavy hair.
(D) It produced the earliest known images for Jain Tirthankaras.

95. Identify which elements are typically found in a fully developed Nagara style temple complex:
(i) Garbhagriha
(ii) Shikhara
(iii) Mandapa
(iv) Gopuram
(v) Jagati
(A) I, II, III, and V only
(B) I, II, and III only
(C) II, III, IV, and V only
(D) I, III, IV and V only

96. The Jaina Tirthankara Parshvanath is uniquely identified in sculpture by the canopy of:
(A) A five-hooded serpent
(B) A seven-hooded serpent
(C) A single-hooded serpent
(D) A nine-hooded serpent

97. The concept of 'structural stupas' implies that they were:
(A) Carved out of a single, large rock.
(B) Built up layer by layer using brick or stone.
(C) Exclusively found in South India.
(D) Lacking any internal relics.

98. The famous dancing girl figure from Mohenjo-Daro is an early example of which art form in the Indian subcontinent, showing its antiquity?
(A) Bronze casting
(B) Stone sculpture
(C) Terracotta art
(D) Painting

99. The Rashtrakuta dynasty's most spectacular contribution to Indian architecture is:
(A) The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur
(B) The stupas at Sanchi and Bharhut
(C) The rock-cut Kailasa Temple at Ellora
(D) The monolithic rathas at Mahabalipuram

100. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Hoysala
Q. Chandela
R. Gupta
S. Satavahana
List II: (A Major Centre of their Art/Architecture)
1. Deogarh
2. Amaravati
3. Halebidu
4. Khajuraho
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

101. What is the primary subject matter of the sculptures at the Sanchi stupa gateways (toranas)?
(A) Portraits of Mauryan and Shunga kings
(B) Scenes from the Mahabharata
(C) Jataka tales and events from the life of the Buddha
(D) Brahmanical deities and their exploits

102. The Bhumija style of architecture, primarily found in Malwa, is considered a sub-style of which major architectural tradition?
(A) Dravida
(B) Nagara
(C) Vesara
(D) Buddhist Vihara style

103. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The earliest rock-cut caves in India, such as the Lomas Rishi cave, have plain, unadorned interiors.
Statement II : The facade of the Lomas Rishi cave imitates the form of wooden architecture, including a Chaitya arch.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

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145. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Term)
P. Ayaka Pillars
Q. Stellate Plan
R. Rekha Deul
S. Pancha Rathas
List II: (Associated Style/Site)
1. Hoysala Architecture
2. Odishan Architecture
3. Pallava Architecture (Mahabalipuram)
4. South Indian Stupas (e.g., Amaravati)
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

146. Which deity is typically represented as the 'Remover of Obstacles' and is worshipped at the beginning of any new venture?
(A) Ganesha
(B) Kartikeya
(C) Surya
(D) Brahma

147. A significant feature of Gupta-era temples, such as the one at Deogarh, is the:
(A) Absence of any sculptural decoration.
(B) Use of a circular plan for the main shrine.
(C) Introduction of a shikhara (spire) over the garbha-griha.
(D) Construction entirely out of wood.

148. The Lomas Rishi cave in the Barabar hills is an early example of rock-cut architecture patronized by Ashoka for which sect?
(A) Buddhists
(B) Jains
(C) Brahmins
(D) Ajivikas

149. The art of Mathura under the Kushanas is distinct from that of Gandhara primarily due to its:
(A) Use of blue-grey schist.
(B) Strong Hellenistic influence.
(C) Use of local red sandstone.
(D) Exclusive focus on Buddhist themes.

150. Identify which of the following features are characteristic of the temples at Khajuraho:
(i) They are built on a high platform (Jagati).
(ii) They belong to the Nagara style of architecture.
(iii) They are known for their extensive and intricate sculptural decoration.
(iv) They are enclosed by massive fortified walls and gateways.
(v) The principal material used is soft soapstone.
(A) I, II and V only
(B) I, II, and III only
(C) II, III, and IV only
(D) III, IV and V only

151. The large, life-sized terracotta figures found at sites like Ahichchhatra, depicting deities like Ganga and Yamuna, belong to which period?
(A) Mauryan period
(B) Shunga period
(C) Kushana period
(D) Gupta period

152. Which of the following is NOT a form of Shakti iconography?
(A) Harihara
(B) Mahishasuramardini
(C) Saptamatrikas
(D) Gajalakshmi

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153. The rock-cut architecture at Ellora is exceptional because it:
(A) Is exclusively Buddhist in nature.
(B) Was completed entirely within the reign of a single king.
(C) Represents Buddhism, Brahmanism, and Jainism.
(D) Is the earliest example of rock-cut caves in India.

154. What is the 'Vimana' in the context of Dravida temple architecture?
(A) The tower built over the sanctum sanctorum (Garbhagriha)
(B) The main gateway
(C) The assembly hall
(D) The water tank in the temple complex

155. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason

(R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The early phase of Buddhist art, particularly under the Shungas, was largely aniconic.
Reason (R) : The Buddha was represented through symbols like the Bodhi tree, footprints, or an empty throne, rather than in human form.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

156. The Mauryan polished stone pillars with their elaborate capitals are primarily interpreted as a medium for:
(A) Commemorating military victories
(B) Propagating the royal policy of Dhamma
(C) Marking trade routes
(D) Astronomical observation

157. Which dynasty's sculptural art is exemplified by the graceful and sensuous apsaras or madanikas at the Hoysalesvara temple?
(A) Chandela
(B) Chola
(C) Hoysala
(D) Pallava

158. Arrange the following artistic creations in their correct chronological order:
(i) The Nataraja Bronze of the Chola period
(ii) The Didarganj Yakshi (Mauryan period)
(iii) The Seated Buddha from Sarnath (Gupta period)
(iv) The Kanishka portrait statue (Kushana period)
(A) II, IV, III, I
(B) I, II, III, IV
(C) II, III, IV, I
(D) IV, II, I, III

159. The Udayagiri caves near Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh are an important site for understanding the early art and architecture of:
(A) The Gupta period (Brahmanical)
(B) The Mauryan period
(C) The Satavahana period
(D) The Kushana period

160. Which of the following statements about Chola sculptures is incorrect?
(A) The period is famous for its masterful bronze sculptures.
(B) The sculptures were primarily made from soft soapstone.
(C) The lost-wax technique was used for creating bronze icons.
(D) The Nataraja image is one of the most famous creations.

161. The 'gopuram' is a prominent feature of which style of temple architecture?
(A) Nagara
(B) Dravida
(C) Vesara
(D) Bhumija

162. The iconographic representation of Tara as a female Bodhisattva gained prominence with the rise of:
(A) Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism
(B) Hinayana Buddhism
(C) Theravada Buddhism
(D) Ajivika sect

163. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The structural stupas of North India, like Sanchi, are characterized by their elaborate gateways (toranas).
Statement II : The structural stupas of South India, like Amaravati, are distinguished by ayaka platforms and pillars at the cardinal points.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

164. The art of which period is characterized by slender, elegant figures in dynamic motion, often carved on white-green limestone?
(A) Gupta period at Sarnath
(B) Mauryan period at Pataliputra
(C) Kushana period at Gandhara
(D) Satavahana period at Amaravati

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165. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Temple)
P. Sun Temple, Konark
Q. Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu
R. Kailasa Temple, Ellora
S. Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur
List II: (Distinctive Feature)
1. Monolithic, carved from a single rock
2. Colossal Vimana with a monolithic cupolic dome
3. Conceived as a giant stone chariot
4. Stellate (star-shaped) plan and soapstone carving
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

166. A key feature of the Gupta sculptures from the Sarnath school is:
(A) The robust and powerful physique of the figures.
(B) The use of transparent drapery that reveals the form.
(C) The depiction of violent and emotional scenes.
(D) The strong influence of Roman portraiture.

167. Which of the following correctly pairs a Brahmanical deity with their consort (Shakti)?
(A) Brahma - Lakshmi
(B) Vishnu - Parvati
(C) Ganesha - Saraswati
(D) Shiva - Parvati

168. The origin of rock-cut architecture in India, with the carving of caves from solid rock, is first seen during the:
(A) Mauryan period
(B) Gupta period
(C) Kushana period
(D) Satavahana period

169. What is the best way to describe the Bhumija architectural style?
(A) A regional style of South India.
(B) A style exclusively used for Jain temples.
(C) A Nagara variation featuring a shikhara of miniature spires.
(D) The earliest form of temple architecture from the Gupta period.

170. Which of the following correctly describes the contribution of the Rashtrakuta dynasty to art and architecture?
(A) Creation of the monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora
(B) Patronage of the great stupa at Sanchi.
(C) Development of the Nagara style at Khajuraho.
(D) Construction of the Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur.

171. The subject matter of the sculptures on the toranas of the Sanchi stupa includes all the following EXCEPT:
(A) Portraits of Mauryan and Shunga kings
(B) Scenes from the Mahabharata
(C) Worship of stupas and Bodhi trees
(D) Anthropomorphic images of the Buddha

172. The 'shikhara' of a Nagara style temple is typically crowned by:
(A) A gopuram
(B) An amalaka and a kalasha
(C) A vimana
(D) A barrel-vaulted roof

173. The famous Trimurti sculpture at Elephanta caves represents which three aspects of Shiva?
(A) Youth, Manhood, and Old Age
(B) Past, Present, and Future
(C) Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer
(D) Benevolent, Wrathful, and Meditative

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174. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Terracotta art was a minor art form and was not used for architectural decoration until the medieval period.
Statement II : The brick temple at Bhitargaon from the Gupta period is decorated with large terracotta panels.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

the Dravida style of architecture.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

195. Identify which of these features are associated with Dravida style temples:
(i) Vimana
(ii) Gopuram
(iii) Amalaka
(iv) Shikhara (curvilinear)
(v) Compound wall with a water tank
(A) I, II, and V only
(B) III, IV, and V only
(C) I, III, and IV only
(D) II, III, and V only

196. The famous sculpture of the Buddha giving his first sermon in the deer park at Sarnath is a masterpiece of the:
(A) Gandhara school
(B) Mathura school
(C) Pala school
(D) Gupta period (Sarnath school)

197. Which of the following is NOT a site known for Pallava architecture?
(A) Kanchipuram
(B) Mahabalipuram
(C) Pattadakal
(D) Mandagapattu

198. The Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha is designed in the form of a:
(A) Gigantic stupa
(B) Colossal chariot
(C) Cosmic mountain
(D) Sacred lotus

199. The Pala school of art, flourishing in Bengal and Bihar, is known for its distinctive sculptures carved in:
(A) Spotted red sandstone
(B) White marble
(C) Soft soapstone
(D) Lustrous black basalt

200. The primary purpose of a 'Vihara' in the context of rock-cut architecture was to serve as:
(A) A residential quarter for monks
(B) A prayer or worship hall.
(C) A royal audience hall.
(D) A burial chamber for kings.

201. Which of the following is a key feature that distinguishes the stupas of Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda from those at Sanchi?
(A) The complete absence of a dome.
(B) The use of wood instead of stone.
(C) The presence of 'ayaka' platforms with five pillars.
(D) Their construction by the Mauryan dynasty.

202. The origin and development of Jain rock-cut architecture is best exemplified by which of the following sites?
(A) Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves in Odisha
(B) Ajanta and Ellora
(C) Bhaja and Karle caves
(D) Elephanta caves

203. The magnificent Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram, a structural temple, was built by which Pallava ruler?
(A) Mahendravarman I
(B) Narasimhavarman I
(C) Nandivarman II
(D) Rajasimha (Narasimhavarman II)

204. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Kushana period is significant for the simultaneous development of the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art.
Statement II : The Gandhara school primarily catered to the demand for Buddhist imagery in the north-western regions, while the Mathura school served a more diverse clientele including Buddhists, Jains, and Brahmins.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

205. The 'lost-wax' process (cire perdue), which reached its pinnacle during the Chola period, was used for creating:

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(D) Hoysala

185. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : Hoysala temples are famous for their intricate and profuse sculptural ornamentation.
Reason (R) : The use of soft chloritic schist (soapstone) as a building material facilitated detailed and delicate carving by the artisans.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

186. Which of the following is a characteristic of Mauryan pillar capitals?
(A) A lustrous, high polish known as Mauryan polish
(B) Rough and unpolished surfaces
(C) Made from multiple pieces of stone joined together
(D) Abstract and geometric designs

187. The sculptural art of the Shunga period at sites like Bharhut and Sanchi is characterized by:
(A) Highly spiritual and transcendent figures.
(B) Greco-Roman realism and anatomical precision.
(C) The use of bronze as the primary medium.
(D) A narrative style, depicting stories in low relief.

188. Identify the incorrect pair of a temple and its location:
(A) Kandariya Mahadeva Temple - Khajuraho
(B) Brihadisvara Temple - Mahabalipuram
(C) Lingaraja Temple - Bhubaneswar
(D) Virupaksha Temple - Pattadakal

189. The rock-cut caves at Sittanavasal are an important source for the study of:
(A) Buddhist painting
(B) Chola sculpture
(C) Jain painting
(D) Mauryan terracotta art

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190. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The Gupta period saw the beginning of free-standing structural Hindu temples.
Reason (R) : The Gupta rulers exclusively patronized Brahmanism and suppressed all other religions like Buddhism and Jainism.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

191. The star-shaped ground plan is a unique and defining feature of which temple architectural style?
(A) Hoysala
(B) Pallava
(C) Chola
(D) Chandela

192. Which of the following statements best describes terracotta art from the Mauryan to Gupta periods?
(A) It remained a primitive folk art without any evolution.
(B) It evolved from hand-modelled to mould-made sophisticated objects.
(C) It was used exclusively for making religious icons.
(D) It was more expensive and prestigious than stone sculpture.

193. The iconography of the Tirthankara Parshvanath consistently includes:
(A) A bull symbol
(B) A canopy of serpent hoods
(C) A lion symbol
(D) A wheel symbol

194. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Khajuraho group of temples were built by the Chandela dynasty.
Statement II : These temples are examples of

(A) Mahayana-Vajrayana Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Vaishnavism
(D) Jainism

235. Identify correct statements about Hoysala art and architecture:
(i) The temples are typically built on a star-shaped platform.
(ii) Soft soapstone was the primary material, allowing for intricate carvings.
(iii) The sculptural decoration is profuse and covers almost all surfaces.
(iv) The vimanas are tall, imposing pyramidal structures similar to Chola temples.
(v) The most famous examples are located at Belur and Halebidu.
(A) I, II, III, and V only
(B) I, II, and IV only
(C) II, III, IV, and V only
(D) I, III, and V only

236. The Lomas Rishi Cave, with its Chaitya arch facade imitating wooden forms, is a key example of the origin of:
(A) Structural temple architecture
(B) Rock-cut architecture
(C) Stupa architecture
(D) Palace architecture

237. The famous 'Descent of the Ganga' relief at Mahabalipuram is a masterpiece of which dynasty's art?
(A) Chola
(B) Rashtrakuta
(C) Pallava
(D) Chalukya

238. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Sarnath School of sculpture, which flourished under the Guptas, created Buddha images that are considered apexes of classical Indian art.
Statement II : The Sarnath Buddha is characterized by a calm, spiritual expression, smooth body, and transparent drapery.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

239. The term 'shakti' in iconography refers to the female principle, the active energy of a deity, often personified as his:
(A) Consort
(B) Son
(C) Teacher
(D) Mount (vahana)

240. Which of the following is NOT a prominent feature of the Khajuraho temples?
(A) Nagara style shikhara
(B) A large water tank (kalyani) inside the main enclosure
(C) High plinth or jagati
(D) Extensive erotic sculptures

241. The antiquity of bronze casting in India, which later culminated in the Chola masterpieces, is evidenced by the:
(A) Polished pillar from the Mauryan period.
(B) Dancing Girl from Mohenjo-Daro
(C) Terracotta mother goddess from Harappa.
(D) Seals of the Indus Valley Civilization.

242. Which of the following is a key iconographic feature of Kartikeya?
(A) He rides a peacock and holds a spear (vel)
(B) He holds a book and a water pot.
(C) He has an elephant head and a single tusk.
(D) He reclines on a serpent in the cosmic ocean.

243. The early Yaksha and Yakshi images from the Mauryan-Shunga period are best understood as:
(A) Representations of Buddhist monks and nuns.
(B) Portraits of kings and queens.
(C) Monumental representations of folk deities.
(D) Early forms of the main Brahmanical gods.

244. The main structural difference between a North Indian stupa (e.g., Sanchi) and a South Indian stupa (e.g., Amaravati) is the:
(A) North Indian stupas have a harmika, while South Indian ones do not.
(B) North Indian stupas are made of brick, while South Indian ones are made of stone.

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(A) Terracotta plaques
(B) Stone reliefs
(C) Bronze icons
(D) Mural paintings

206. Which of the following statements about the iconography of Vishnu is correct?
(A) He is often depicted with a third eye and a trident.
(B) His vahana or mount is a mouse.
(C) He is represented as having four heads facing the cardinal directions.
(D) He is shown reclining on the serpent Shesha, known as Sheshashayana.

207. In the context of Brahmanical iconography, who is considered the god of creation and is often depicted with four heads?
(A) Brahma
(B) Vishnu
(C) Shiva
(D) Surya

208. Arrange the following sculptural examples in their correct chronological order:
(i) The Trimurti at Elephanta
(ii) The Rampurva Bull Capital
(iii) The erotic sculptures of Khajuraho
(iv) The Standing Buddha from Mathura (Kushana)
(A) II, IV, I, III
(B) I, II, IV, III
(C) II, I, IV, III
(D) IV, II, III, I

209. The paintings of the Bagh caves are thematically closer to those of:
(A) Sittanavasal, focusing on Jain themes.
(B) Ajanta, though featuring a more secular character.
(C) Early Christian art from Rome.
(D) The pre-historic rock shelters of Bhimbetka.

210. Which of the following architectural styles is most prominently associated with the Chalukyas of Kalyani and the Hoysalas?
(A) Vesara
(B) Nagara
(C) Dravida
(D) Bhumija

211. Which of the following characteristics accurately describes the art of the Chandela period, as seen at Khajuraho?
(A) Monumental and heavy figures with a rigid frontality.
(B) Idealized and serene figures with a focus on spiritual tranquility.
(C) Graceful and elongated figures with a sense of movement.
(D) A hybrid of Indian and Greco-Roman styles.

212. The term 'Bodhisattva' in Buddhist art refers to:
(A) A historical figure who was a contemporary of the Buddha.
(B) A guardian deity of a particular monastery.
(C) Another name for the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama.
(D) A being who postpones nirvana to help others.

213. The rock-cut 'rathas' at Mahabalipuram are significant because they:
(A) Are the largest rock-cut structures in the world.
(B) Were functional temples with regular worship.
(C) Are seen as prototypes for later Dravida style temples.
(D) Are prime examples of Nagara architecture in the South.

214. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about Mauryan art?
(A) The period is known for its highly polished monolithic stone pillars.
(B) Mauryan art exclusively depicted Buddhist themes and symbols.
(C) The Lion Capital at Sarnath is a prime example of Mauryan court art.
(D) Early Yaksha figures are considered part of the Mauryan artistic tradition.

215. Identify the key features of the sculptural art of the Satavahana period, especially at Amaravati:
(i) Use of white limestone (Palnad marble).
(ii) Preference for crowded narrative scenes.
(iii) Depiction of slender figures with dynamic movement.

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175. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Pallava
Q. Chola
R. Chandela
S. Chalukya of Badami
List II: (Architectural Contribution)
1. Temples at Khajuraho
2. Experimental temples at Aihole and Pattadakal
3. Monolithic Rathas at Mahabalipuram
4. Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

176. The concept of architecture being a 'significant source of Indian history' stems from its ability to provide tangible evidence of:
(A) Political and military events only.
(B) Religious beliefs, artistic skills, and technology.
(C) Economic transactions and trade logs only.
(D) Literary traditions and oral history exclusively.

177. The rock-cut architecture of the Pallavas is broadly divided into two phases, associated with which two rulers/styles?
(A) Simhavishnu and Mahendravarman
(B) Mahendra style and Narasimhavarman style
(C) Rajasimha style and Nandivarman style
(D) Pulakeshin I and Pulakeshin II

178. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the Vesara style of temple architecture?
(A) It is a hybrid style, combining Nagara and Dravida styles.
(B) It is found exclusively in the Odisha region.
(C) It is a purely Northern style with a curvilinear shikhara.
(D) It is characterized by monolithic carving.

179. The Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh is dedicated to which deity?
(A) Shiva
(B) Brahma
(C) Vishnu
(D) Surya

180. Identify which of the following statements about early stupa architecture are correct:
(i) The stupa originated as a tumulus or burial mound for relics.
(ii) The Mauryan emperor Ashoka is credited with building numerous stupas.
(iii) The main components include the anda, harmika, and chhatra.
(iv) Early stupas were always built with elaborately carved stone.
(v) The practice of circumambulation (pradakshina) was an integral part of the worship.
(A) I, II, III, and V only
(B) II, III, IV, and V only
(C) I, III, and IV only
(D) I, II, and IV only

181. Which sculptural school is known for producing images of Buddhist, Jain, and Brahmanical deities, often using spotted red sandstone?
(A) Gandhara School
(B) Sarnath School
(C) Mathura School
(D) Pala School

182. In iconography, the river goddess Ganga is often depicted on her vahana (mount), which is a:
(A) Tortoise (Kurma)
(B) Crocodile (Makara)
(C) Swan (Hamsa)
(D) Fish (Matsya)

183. The paintings in Ajanta Cave No. 1, such as the famous Padmapani and Vajrapani Bodhisattvas, belong to which period of artistic activity at the site?
(A) The early Hinayana phase
(B) The Rashtrakuta phase
(C) The Mauryan phase
(D) The later Mahayana phase

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184. The 'amalaka' is a distinctive crowning element of the shikhara in which temple style?
(A) Nagara
(B) Dravida
(C) Vesara

(R). Examine the statements and select the correct option.
Assertion (A) : The temple complex at Khajuraho is a fine example of the Nagara style of architecture.
Reason (R) : The temples feature curvilinear shikharas, are built on high platforms (jagati), and follow a plan that integrates the sanctum and mandapas.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

226. The frescoes of Ajanta primarily depict:
(A) Jataka tales and events from the life of the Buddha
(B) Scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
(C) The lives of Jain Tirthankaras.
(D) The military campaigns of the Vakataka kings.

227. The large water tank, a characteristic feature of South Indian temple complexes, is known as a:
(A) Gopuram
(B) Vimana
(C) Kalyani or Pushkarani
(D) Jagati

228. The sculptures of the Pala period are stylistically characterized by:
(A) A simple and rustic quality.
(B) The use of white marble and serene expressions.
(C) The monumental size and robust physicality of the figures.
(D) A highly polished finish and slender forms.

229. Which of the following statements correctly differentiates between the Nagara and Dravida temple styles?
(A) The main shrine in Nagara style has a Vimana, while in Dravida style it has a Shikhara.
(B) Nagara temples have elaborate gateways called Gopurams, which are absent in Dravida temples.
(C) The Nagara Shikhara is curvilinear, while the Dravida Vimana is pyramidal.
(D) Nagara temples are surrounded by a compound wall, while Dravida temples are built on an open platform.

230. Identify which of the following statements about the development of the stupa are correct:
(i) The stupa began as a simple earthen mound over relics.
(ii) Ashoka was a major patron, responsible for the construction of many stupas.
(iii) During the Shunga period, sites like Sanchi were enlarged and stone was used more extensively.
(iv) The stupas of South India, like Amaravati, developed unique features like ayaka platforms.
(A) I and II only
(B) III and IV only
(C) I, II, and III only
(D) I, II, III, and IV

231. The iconography of the Jain Tirthankara Mahavira is identified by the symbol of a:
(A) Bull
(B) Serpent
(C) Elephant
(D) Lion

232. The paintings at Bagh caves are significant for their depiction of:
(A) Secular, vivid, and humanistic scenes
(B) Religious and mythological scenes only.
(C) Historical events from the Gupta period.
(D) Abstract and floral patterns exclusively.

233. In the context of the Chalukyan temples at Pattadakal, what is architecturally significant about the site?
(A) It contains only temples built in the Nagara style.
(B) It contains only temples built in the Dravida style.
(C) It showcases a blend of Nagara and Dravida style temples.
(D) All temples are monolithic structures.

234. The deity Tara is a significant figure in the iconography of:

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(iv) A strong influence of the Gandhara school.
(v) Static and monumental figures in frontal poses.
(A) I, II, and III only
(B) II, IV, and V only
(C) I, III, and V only
(D) I, II, and IV only

216. The concept of 'panchayatana' refers to a temple plan where:
(A) The main shrine is surrounded by four smaller subsidiary shrines
(B) The temple is built on five receding tiers.
(C) The mandapa has five distinct sections.
(D) The temple complex is accessed through five gateways.

217. The rock-cut caves at Ajanta are primarily of two types:
(A) Stupas and Mandapas
(B) Rathas and Mandapas
(C) Chaitya halls and Viharas
(D) Chaityas and Stupas

218. The iconography of the Sun God, Surya, is unique as he is often depicted:
(A) Wearing high boots, a feature of Central Asian influence
(B) In a meditative posture.
(C) With an elephant head.
(D) Reclining on a serpent.

219. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Bhumija style of shikhara is characterized by a central latā or spine, flanked by miniature shrine-like motifs.
Statement II : The Bhumija style is a prominent feature of Pallava temple architecture.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

220. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Tirthankara)
P. Rishabhdev
Q. Parshvanath
R. Mahavira
S. Buddha (as an iconographic element)
List II: (Symbol/Attribute)
1. Lion
2. Serpent
3. Bull
4. Bodhi Tree
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

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221. The period between Mauryan and Gupta art is crucial for the development of terracotta art because:
(A) The use of terracotta was discontinued.
(B) Terracottas became larger than stone sculptures.
(C) The technique of using moulds was introduced.
(D) The themes became exclusively religious.

222. The most famous contribution of the Cholas to the world of art is their:
(A) Monolithic rock-cut temples.
(B) Polished stone pillars with animal capitals.
(C) Narrative relief panels in red sandstone.
(D) Exquisite bronze sculptures, especially the Nataraja

223. What is the fundamental difference between 'rock-cut' and 'structural' architecture?
(A) Rock-cut is carved from rock; structural is built with stone or brick
(B) Rock-cut is always religious; structural is always secular.
(C) Rock-cut uses wood; structural uses stone.
(D) Rock-cut is found in North India; structural is found in South India.

224. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of the Gandhara school of art?
(A) Use of blue-grey schist.
(B) Use of spotted red sandstone
(C) Depiction of Buddha with a moustache and muscular body.
(D) Strong Hellenistic or Greco-Roman influence.

225. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason

(C) South Indian stupas lack a pradakshinapatha.
(D) South Indian stupas have ayaka platforms.

245. Match List I with List II and select the correct option using the codes given below:
List I: (Style)
P. Early Chalukyan (Vesara experimentation)
Q. Mature Chola (Dravida)
R. Pallava (Early Dravida)
S. Chandela (Nagara)
List II: (Site)
1. Khajuraho
2. Thanjavur
3. Pattadakal
4. Mahabalipuram
(A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-2, R-4, S-3

246. The temple at Bhitargaon is a significant early example of a structural temple from the Gupta period made of:
(A) Sandstone
(B) Fired bricks with terracotta decoration
(C) Granite
(D) Wood and thatch

247. The sculptural program at Ellora's Kailasa temple (Cave 16) is overwhelmingly dedicated to which deity?
(A) Vishnu and his avatars
(B) The Buddha and Bodhisattvas
(C) The Jain Tirthankaras
(D) Shiva and his various forms and myths

248. The transition from aniconic to iconic representation of the Buddha is a major landmark in Indian art history, occurring during the:
(A) Kushana period
(B) Vedic period
(C) Mauryan period
(D) Pala period

249. Which of the following is the most accurate statement regarding paintings in ancient India?
(A) The tradition of painting is limited only to the Ajanta caves.
(B) All ancient Indian paintings were done using the true fresco technique.
(C) Rock-cut cave paintings are found at sites like Ajanta and Bagh.
(D) The Bagh cave paintings are exclusively religious, depicting Jataka tales.

250. Identify features that are NOT associated with the Dravida style of temple architecture:
(i) Curvilinear Shikhara
(ii) Amalaka
(iii) Jagati (high platform)
(iv) Gopuram
(v) Vimana
(A) IV and V only
(B) I, II, and III only
(C) I and IV only
(D) II, III, and V only

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The stupa, a significant architectural form in Indian history, originated as a simple hemispherical earthen mound built over sacred relics. Its architectural development represents a profound evolution from these humble beginnings into complex structural edifices. The primary components of a structural stupa include the main hemispherical dome known as the 'anda', surmounted by a square railing, the 'harmika', from which a central mast, the 'yashti', rises, supporting a series of ceremonial umbrellas or 'chhatras'. The entire structure was often enclosed by a stone railing called a 'vedika', which had ornate gateways or 'toranas' at the cardinal points. The development of the stupa demonstrates regional variations, particularly between North and South India. North Indian stupas, such as those at Sanchi, are renowned for their massive stone vedikas and elaborately carved toranas depicting Jataka tales and scenes from the Buddha's life. In contrast, South Indian stupas, exemplified by sites like Amaravati, are distinguished by their extensive use of sculpted marble slabs to encase the brick stupa drum, featuring highly refined and dynamic narrative reliefs. This evolution showcases a transition from simple memorial mounds to sophisticated centres of worship and artistic expression, reflecting the changing needs and patronage of the Buddhist community.

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ANSWER

1. (B) Architecture

   Architecture serves as a vital primary source for reconstructing India's past. These physical structures reflect the religious beliefs, societal values, and technological advancements of their time. From the early rock-cut caves to the elaborate medieval temples, architectural remains provide tangible evidence of artistic traditions and state patronage. They offer insights into the cultural synthesis and stylistic evolution that characterized different historical periods across the subcontinent.

2. (A) Anda

   The stupa is a fundamental structure in Buddhist architecture, symbolizing the universe. The core component is the anda, a solid hemispherical mound that represents the infinite dome of heaven. This massive structure was originally designed to house sacred relics of the Buddha or other venerable saints. Its simple yet profound shape evolved over centuries, incorporating various symbolic elements that reflected the philosophical depth of Buddhist cosmology.

3. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

   The origin of the stupa is rooted in pre-Buddhist funerary practices where mounds were erected over the remains of deceased individuals. While Buddhism adopted and sanctified this form, not all stupas necessarily contain physical relics. Some were constructed as commemorative monuments to mark significant events or locations in the life of the Buddha. Therefore, the presence of relics is a common but not universal feature of these structures.

4. (D) The Mauryas

   Rock-cut architecture in India began with the patronage of the Mauryan dynasty, particularly under Emperor Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha. The earliest examples are the Barabar and Nagarjuni caves, which were dedicated to the Ajivika sect. These caves, like Lomas Rishi, feature a distinctive high polish and sophisticated design. They served as prototypes for later Buddhist and Brahmanical cave temples, marking the beginning of a long tradition.

5. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

   Indian temple architecture is broadly categorized into distinct regional styles based on their structural features. The Nagara style is characterized by a curvilinear shikhara, while the Dravida style features a pyramidal vimana. The Vesara style represents a hybrid, blending elements from both traditions. The Bhumija sub-style is noted for miniature shrine motifs arranged vertically on the shikhara. These variations reflect the diverse artistic expressions across the Indian subcontinent.

6. (B) Temple architecture evolved independently without any influence from rock-cut traditions.

   The evolution of temple architecture in India was a gradual process influenced by various factors, including earlier rock-cut traditions. The transition from perishable materials to permanent stone structures occurred over centuries. Rock-cut shrines provided essential prototypes for the development of structural temples. The practice of idol worship and the emergence of the Bhakti movement further accelerated construction. Thus, temple architecture was not an isolated development but integrated multiple artistic influences.

7. (D) NBPW (Northern Black Polished Ware) finish

   Mauryan stone pillars are famous for their extraordinary luster, often compared to the finish found on Northern Black Polished Ware. This brilliant, glass-like shine was achieved through a sophisticated technique of grinding and polishing. The craftsmanship was so advanced that the surfaces remain reflective even after millennia. This distinctive finish is a hallmark of Mauryan court art, showcasing the high level of technological skill during that period.

8. (A) II, IV, III, I

   The development of Indian sculpture follows a clear chronological progression. It began with the

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258. The passage states that rock-cut architecture in India was patronized by which of the following religious groups?
(A) Buddhism, Brahmanism, and Jainism.
(B) Buddhism and Jainism only.
(C) Brahmanism and Shaivism exclusively.
(D) Buddhism only, with later adaptations by others.

259. Which statement accurately reflects the development of rock-cut architecture as described in the source?
(A) It remained static in design and execution throughout its history.
(B) It began with complex designs and was later simplified for efficiency.
(C) It progressed from plain imitations of wood to elaborate sculptural complexes.
(D) It was quickly abandoned in favour of structural temples.

260. The passage identifies the 'vihara' as which type of structure?
(A) A monastery with cells for monks.
(B) An apsidal worship hall.
(C) An open-air courtyard for rituals.
(D) A standalone stupa.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The origin and development of temple architecture in India signify a pivotal shift from sacrificial Vedic rituals to theistic devotional worship. The main features of a temple are designed to house a deity and facilitate worship, creating a sacred space distinct from the profane world. A typical temple consists of a core sanctuary, the 'garbhagriha' (womb-house), which houses the principal deity. Above the garbhagriha rises the main tower or spire, known as the 'shikhara' in North India and 'vimana' in South India. An assembly hall or 'mandapa' is usually situated in front of the garbhagriha for the congregation. Over centuries, distinct architectural styles developed, with the most prominent being Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara. The Nagara style, prevalent in North India, is characterized by a curvilinear shikhara. The Dravida style, found in South India, features a pyramidal vimana composed of receding tiers. The Vesara style, seen primarily in the Deccan, is a hybrid style that incorporates elements from both Nagara and Dravida traditions. A notable, more complex variant of the Nagara style is the Bhumija style, characterized by a central Latina shikhara with miniature spires arranged on the quadrant. These styles represent not just regional diversity but also sophisticated cosmological and theological conceptualizations.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What is the 'garbhagriha' in the context of Indian temple architecture?
(A) The main assembly hall for devotees.
(B) The towering spire above the sanctuary.
(C) The ornate gateway to the temple complex.
(D) The core sanctuary that houses the deity's image.

262. The passage describes the Vesara style of temple architecture as:
(A) A style found exclusively in North India.
(B) A hybrid style combining Nagara and Dravida elements.
(C) An early form that predates both Nagara and Dravida styles.
(D) A style characterized by a curvilinear shikhara.

263. Which of the following features is characteristic of the Dravida style of temple architecture?
(A) A curvilinear shikhara tower.
(B) The complete absence of an assembly hall or mandapa.
(C) A pyramidal vimana made of receding tiers.
(D) A central spire surrounded by miniature spires in a quadrant.

264. The Bhumija style is identified in the text as a variant of which major architectural style?
(A) Dravida
(B) Vesara
(C) Gandhara
(D) Nagara

265. According to the passage, the development of temple architecture corresponds to a cultural shift from:
(A) Sacrificial rituals to devotional worship.
(B) Theistic devotion to abstract philosophy.

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Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what was the original function and form of the stupa?
(A) A complex stone temple for housing deities.
(B) A simple hemispherical earthen mound built over sacred relics.
(C) A monastery for Buddhist monks to reside in.
(D) A monumental pillar to mark a significant event.

252. Which of the following components of a stupa is described as a square railing surmounting the main dome?
(A) Harmika
(B) Anda
(C) Chhatra
(D) Vedika

253. What key distinction does the passage draw between North and South Indian stupas?
(A) South Indian stupas lacked gateways, while North Indian ones had elaborate toranas.
(B) North Indian stupas used brick exclusively, whereas South Indian stupas used only marble.
(C) North Indian stupas are known for carved toranas, while South Indian stupas are noted for marble-encased drums with reliefs.
(D) The harmika is a feature only found in North Indian stupas.

254. The ornate gateways found at the cardinal points of a stupa enclosure are known as:
(A) Yashtis
(B) Andas
(C) Chhatras
(D) Toranas

255. The overall development of the stupa, as described in the passage, illustrates a transition towards:
(A) Diminishing artistic quality over time.
(B) Increasing simplification and functionalism.
(C) Greater sophistication as centres of worship and art.
(D) A shift from Buddhist to Brahmanical patronage.

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Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Rock-cut architecture in India represents a monumental achievement in stone craftsmanship, marking a significant development from earlier timber and perishable material constructions. Its origin can be traced to the practice of carving out living rock to create durable and permanent religious spaces. This form of architecture was patronized by all three major ancient Indian religions: Buddhism, Brahmanism, and Jainism. The earliest and most extensive examples are Buddhist, typically comprising two main types of structures: the 'chaitya' hall, a vaulted apsidal hall used for congregational worship, often containing a stupa at its far end; and the 'vihara', a monastery consisting of a central hall surrounded by small cells for monks. The development of rock-cut architecture shows a clear progression in technical skill and conceptual complexity. Early caves were relatively plain and closely imitated wooden prototypes, including features like rafters and beams carved into the stone. Over time, these evolved into elaborate multi-storied complexes with intricate sculptural programs and sophisticated spatial planning. This architectural tradition highlights a desire for permanence in religious expression and stands as a testament to the engineering and artistic prowess of ancient Indian artisans, who could transform entire hillsides into magnificent sanctuaries.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. According to the passage, the origin of rock-cut architecture was heavily influenced by:
(A) The need for military fortifications.
(B) The imitation of earlier constructions made of timber.
(C) The desire to create purely secular public buildings.
(D) The availability of marble and sandstone.

257. What was the primary function of a 'chaitya' hall in the context of Buddhist rock-cut architecture?
(A) To serve as residential quarters for monks.
(B) To function as a treasury for the monastery.
(C) To be a space for administrative meetings.
(D) To act as a hall for congregational worship.

the South, the Cholas perfected the Dravida style, taking it to a monumental scale. Chola temples are characterized by their colossal vimanas, extensive walled enclosures with elaborate gateways ('gopurams'), and vast temple complexes that served as centres of social, economic, and cultural life. These regional styles, while adhering to the core principles of temple architecture, showcase immense creativity and local genius in their execution and ornamentation.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is a defining characteristic of the Khajuraho temples mentioned in the passage?
(A) A single, unadorned vimana.
(B) The separation of the main shrine and the assembly hall.
(C) A main shikhara surrounded by a cluster of subsidiary spires.
(D) Colossal gateways or gopurams.

272. The passage describes the Kalinga style of Odisha as having which two distinct components?
(A) Garbhagriha and Urushringa
(B) Deul and Jagamohana
(C) Vimana and Gopuram
(D) Jagati and Mandapa

273. Which dynasty is associated with perfecting the monumental Dravida style of temple architecture?
(A) The Chandelas
(B) The Guptas
(C) The Palas
(D) The Cholas

274. The 'gopuram', or elaborate gateway, is highlighted as a characteristic feature of which temple style?
(A) The Dravida style under the Cholas.
(B) The Odisha style.
(C) The Nagara style of Khajuraho.
(D) The Gupta style.

275. A common feature of Khajuraho temples, as described in the source, is that they are built on:
(A) A low, circular plinth.
(B) An excavated rock surface.
(C) A high platform known as a jagati.
(D) The banks of a sacred river.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The history of Indian sculptural art begins with remarkable antiquity, showing a clear line of development from the Mauryan period onwards. The Mauryan pillar capitals, particularly the Sarnath lion capital, exhibit a high degree of polish and naturalistic modeling, suggesting sophisticated craftsmanship. Following this, the early sculptural tradition continued with the creation of large, freestanding Yaksha-Yakshi images, which, though somewhat archaic in their frontal posture, represent powerful folk deities being integrated into the artistic mainstream. The subsequent periods under the Shungas and Satavahanas witnessed a flourishing of narrative relief sculpture, especially on the railings and gateways of stupas like Bharhut and Sanchi. These sculptures, while still exhibiting some stiffness, excel in vivid storytelling, depicting Jataka tales and events from the Buddha's life with remarkable detail and clarity. This phase laid the critical groundwork for the development of anthropomorphic representations of the Buddha and the more refined styles that would emerge in later centuries. The focus was on collective narratives and integrating art with religious architecture, making stupas open-air galleries of didactic stories carved in stone.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. Which feature is highlighted as characteristic of Mauryan pillar capitals like the one from Sarnath?
(A) High polish and naturalistic modeling.
(B) Archaic frontality and stiffness.
(C) Exclusive depiction of Jataka tales.
(D) Use of bronze as the primary material.

277. The passage describes the early, large, freestanding images of Yakshas and Yakshis as:
(A) Symbols of Mauryan imperial power.
(B) Narrative reliefs from the Satavahana period.
(C) Precursors to the Gandhara school.
(D) Representations of powerful folk deities.

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(C) Monotheism to polytheism.
(D) Rural folk traditions to urban courtly arts.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The evolution of structural temples gained significant momentum under the patronage of major dynasties such as the Guptas, Chalukyas, and Pallavas. The Gupta period is often considered the crucible for early structural temple architecture, marking a transition from rock-cut shrines to freestanding structures. Gupta temples are typically modest in size, featuring a simple square garbhagriha with a small porch (mandapa) and a flat or low, nascent shikhara, laying the foundational grammar for later, more complex edifices. Following this, the Pallavas of Kanchi made monumental contributions, pioneering both monolithic rock-cut temples (rathas) and early structural stone temples. Their work demonstrates a clear progression from carving entire shrines from a single rock to constructing them stone by stone, with notable developments in the form of the vimana and mandapa. Simultaneously, the Early Chalukyas of Badami were instrumental in experimenting with temple architecture, creating a unique style in the Deccan that drew inspiration from both northern and southern traditions. Their temples at sites like Aihole are famous for their diverse plans and spire forms, reflecting a dynamic period of architectural innovation that would heavily influence the later Rashtrakuta dynasty and the development of the Vesara style.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. Which dynasty's period is described as the crucible for early structural temple architecture?
(A) Pallava
(B) Gupta
(C) Chalukya
(D) Rashtrakuta

267. The Pallavas are credited in the passage with pioneering which two forms of temple construction?
(A) Wooden temples and brick temples.
(B) Monolithic rock-cut temples and early structural stone temples.
(C) Temples with curvilinear shikharas and pyramidal vimanas.
(D) Small shrines with flat roofs and large multi-storied complexes.

268. According to the passage, the Early Chalukyas are known for:
(A) Experimenting with diverse plans and spire forms in the Deccan.
(B) Building exclusively in the pure Dravida style.
(C) Constructing only monolithic temples.
(D) Perfecting the use of marble in temple construction.

269. The architectural innovations of the Early Chalukyas are stated to have influenced which later dynasty?
(A) The Guptas
(B) The Cholas
(C) The Rashtrakutas
(D) The Mauryas

270. What is a characteristic feature of Gupta temples as described in the passage?
(A) Monumental size and complex layouts.
(B) Towering pyramidal vimanas.
(C) Extensive use of monolithic rock carving.
(D) Modest size with a square garbhagriha and a nascent shikhara.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The maturity of Indian temple architecture is vividly expressed through distinct and powerful regional styles that flourished from the medieval period onwards. The temples of Khajuraho, built by the Chandelas, represent a high point of the Nagara style. They are known for their compact, elevated structure built on a high platform (jagati), and a complex arrangement of shikhara towers, with the main spire being surrounded by a cluster of subsidiary spires (urushringas), creating a mountain-like effect. In eastern India, the temples of Odisha developed a unique variant of the Nagara style, often referred to as the Kalinga style. Its key features include a distinct vertical spire called the 'deul' (corresponding to the shikhara) and a separate, flat-roofed assembly hall known as the 'jagamohana', which are joined together. In

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285. The overall artistic achievement of the Gupta sculpture from Sarnath is described as:
(A) An energetic and robust physicality.
(B) A realistic and anatomical precision.
(C) A sublime spiritual grace and serene divinity.
(D) An archaic and frontal presentation.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Following the classical Gupta age, Indian sculptural art evolved into distinct and dynamic regional styles under various medieval dynasties. The Pala school, flourishing in eastern India, is known for its elegant and refined sculptures in black stone and bronze. Pala art displays a final flowering of the Gupta aesthetic but with a greater degree of stylization, sinuous grace, and intricate ornamentation, often depicting a wide pantheon of Buddhist deities. In central India, the Chandela sculptures at Khajuraho are famous for their dynamic human figures, which are depicted with a sense of movement, rhythmic grace, and often in complex compositional groups celebrating all aspects of life. Further south, the Chola dynasty is renowned for its mastery over bronze casting, using the lost-wax process to create exquisite images of Hindu deities, particularly the iconic Shiva as Nataraja. These bronzes are celebrated for their perfect balance, rhythmic movement, and profound spiritual symbolism. Concurrently, the Hoysala dynasty in the Deccan developed a unique sculptural style characterized by an incredible profusion of detail and ornamentation. Hoysala sculptures, carved from soapstone, feature minute and intricate carvings of jewellery, drapery, and decorative motifs, creating a texture that is as much a part of the aesthetic as the form itself.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. Which dynasty is specifically renowned for its mastery over bronze casting and the creation of Shiva Nataraja icons?
(A) Pala
(B) Chandela
(C) Hoysala
(D) Chola

287. The sculptural style characterized by an incredible profusion of minute and intricate detail carved from soapstone is associated with which dynasty?
(A) The Palas of eastern India.
(B) The Chandelas of central India.
(C) The Hoysalas of the Deccan.
(D) The Cholas of the far south.

288. According to the passage, the Pala school of sculpture is known for:
(A) A simple and unadorned style.
(B) Elegant and stylized figures in black stone and bronze.
(C) The use of red-spotted sandstone.
(D) Realistic portraiture of common people.

289. The Chandela sculptures at Khajuraho are described in the passage as being famous for their:
(A) Static and monumental frontality.
(B) Abstract and non-representational forms.
(C) Sole focus on Buddhist deities.
(D) Dynamic and rhythmic human figures.

290. The passage suggests that Pala art, while developing its own characteristics, represents a continuation and stylization of which earlier aesthetic?
(A) Gupta
(B) Mauryan
(C) Gandharan
(D) Hoysala

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Iconography, the study of images and symbols, is crucial for understanding Indian art, as sculptures and paintings are laden with specific symbolic meanings. Within the Brahmanical tradition, deities are identified by their attributes (ayudhas), mounts (vahanas), and postures. For instance, Vishnu is often depicted with the conch (shankha), discus (chakra), mace (gada), and lotus (padma), and his mount is the eagle Garuda. Shiva can be identified by the trident (trishula), a drum (damaru), and the Nandi bull. Other major deities like Brahma with his four heads, Ganesha with his elephant head, Kartikeya with his peacock mount, and the sun god Surya on a chariot of seven

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horses, all possess distinct iconographic features. The divine feminine, Shakti, is represented in various forms from benevolent to fierce. In Jainism, Tirthankaras are typically shown in meditative postures, distinguished by specific symbols (lanchanas); for example, Rishabhdev is associated with a bull, and Parshvanath with a serpent hood. The Buddhist pantheon also has a rich iconography, with the Buddha being depicted in various mudras (hand gestures). Bodhisattvas are recognized by their compassionate expressions and specific attributes, while the female divinity Tara is identifiable through her associated color and the lotus she often holds.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. According to the passage, what are 'ayudhas' in the context of Brahmanical iconography?
(A) The mounts or vehicles of the deities.
(B) The postures in which deities are depicted.
(C) The specific attributes or weapons held by deities.
(D) The crowns and jewelry worn by deities.

292. How are different Jain Tirthankaras, such as Rishabhdev and Parshvanath, distinguished from one another in art?
(A) By their specific identifying symbols, or lanchanas.
(B) By their different hand gestures or mudras.
(C) By the number of heads they are depicted with.
(D) By the color of the stone used to carve them.

293. Which deity is described as having a chariot drawn by seven horses as part of his iconography?
(A) Vishnu
(B) Shiva
(C) Kartikeya
(D) Surya

294. The passage mentions that the iconography of the Buddhist pantheon includes figures like Bodhisattvas and the female divinity:
(A) Shakti
(B) Tara
(C) Parvati
(D) Lakshmi

295. Which of the following iconographic sets for a Brahmanical deity is correctly matched as per the passage?
(A) Shiva: mace, discus, eagle mount.
(B) Vishnu: trident, drum, serpent hood.
(C) Ganesha: elephant head, mace.
(D) Brahma: peacock mount, single head.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Beyond stone and bronze, other artistic media provide a fuller picture of ancient Indian visual culture. Terracotta art, for instance, represents a more popular and widespread medium, with a continuous history from the Mauryan to the Gupta period and beyond. Terracotta figurines, ranging from crude, hand-modeled objects to sophisticated mold-made plaques, offer insights into the daily life, fashion, and folk beliefs of the time. They depict a wide array of subjects including mother goddesses, toys, and secular scenes, providing a valuable counterpoint to the more formal, religiously-driven stone sculpture. In parallel, the tradition of painting, particularly rock-cut cave paintings, preserves a rare and fragile aspect of Indian art. The caves of Ajanta are paramount, containing murals that span several centuries and showcase a mature art form with masterful use of line, color, and composition to depict Jataka tales and courtly life with unparalleled vibrancy and emotional depth. Other significant sites include the Bagh caves, which exhibit a style closely related to Ajanta but with a more secular and spontaneous character, and the Sittanavasal caves, which are notable for their early medieval Jain paintings, distinguished by their delicate lines and limited but powerful color palette.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What insight does the passage suggest is offered by terracotta art?
(A) A record of royal genealogies and decrees.
(B) A guide to the construction of monumental architecture.
(C) A history of military strategies and conquests.
(D) An understanding of daily life, fashion, and folk beliefs.

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297. The paintings in the Ajanta caves are described as being particularly masterful in their depiction of:
(A) Jataka tales and courtly life.
(B) Abstract geometric patterns only.
(C) Brahmanical deities and their exploits.
(D) The lives of Jain Tirthankaras.

298. How does the passage characterize the relationship between the paintings at Bagh and Ajanta?
(A) The Bagh paintings are stylistically unrelated to Ajanta.
(B) The Bagh style is closely related to Ajanta but more secular and spontaneous.
(C) The Bagh paintings predate Ajanta by several centuries.
(D) The Bagh paintings are exclusively religious, unlike the secular art of Ajanta.

299. The rock-cut paintings at Sittanavasal are noted in the passage for being associated with which religious tradition?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Jainism
(C) Brahmanism
(D) Ajivika

300. According to the passage, terracotta art provides a valuable counterpoint to formal stone sculpture because it was:
(A) A more popular and widespread medium depicting a wider range of subjects.
(B) A more expensive and elite medium.
(C) Exclusively used for religious purposes.
(D) A medium that was only prevalent during the Mauryan period.

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278. The sculptures of the Shunga and Satavahana periods, found at sites like Bharhut and Sanchi, are particularly noted for their:
(A) Abstract and symbolic forms.
(B) Vivid depiction of narrative tales.
(C) Lifelike portraiture of kings.
(D) Use of terracotta as a medium.

279. According to the passage, the art of the Shunga and Satavahana periods made stupas function as:
(A) Fortified military outposts.
(B) Residential monasteries for monks.
(C) Open-air galleries of didactic stories.
(D) Centers for Brahmanical rituals.

280. The overall development described in the passage suggests a progression in early Indian sculpture from:
(A) Narrative reliefs to monumental single figures.
(B) Abstract symbolism to Hellenistic realism.
(C) Folk art to sophisticated courtly styles.
(D) Monumental imperial art to smaller, narrative reliefs.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Kushana period is a watershed in the history of Indian sculpture, primarily due to the emergence of two major artistic traditions: the Gandhara school and the Mathura school. The Gandhara school, flourishing in the northwestern part of the subcontinent, was heavily influenced by Greco-Roman artistic conventions. This is evident in its depiction of the Buddha with wavy hair, draped in a toga-like sanghati, and possessing an anatomically realistic, muscular body, often reminiscent of a Greek deity. In contrast, the Mathura school, which developed indigenously, drew from the earlier Yaksha tradition. It produced images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas carved from the local red-spotted sandstone, characterized by a robust and energetic physique, a shaven head or snail-shell curls, and a more spiritual, inward-looking expression. The succeeding Gupta period is often hailed as the classical age of Indian art, where the Sarnath school synthesized elements from both earlier schools to create a new ideal. Gupta sculptures, particularly from Sarnath, are celebrated for their sublime spiritual grace, translucent drapery that reveals the form beneath, and a perfect balance between idealized form and serene divinity, creating a truly transcendent image of the Buddha.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. Which artistic school is described as being heavily influenced by Greco-Roman conventions?
(A) The Gandhara school
(B) The Mathura school
(C) The Sarnath school
(D) The Pala school

282. A key characteristic of the Mathura school, as mentioned in the passage, is:
(A) The use of grey schist stone.
(B) Its development from the indigenous Yaksha tradition.
(C) The depiction of a muscular, Apollo-like Buddha.
(D) The creation of purely abstract, non-figural art.

283. The passage credits the Gupta period's Sarnath school with:
(A) Rejecting all foreign artistic influences.
(B) Synthesizing elements from earlier schools to create a new ideal.
(C) Exclusively using red-spotted sandstone.
(D) Focusing only on the depiction of Bodhisattvas.

284. How does the passage contrast the depiction of the Buddha's drapery in the Gandhara and Gupta (Sarnath) schools?
(A) Gandhara used toga-like drapes, while Sarnath used translucent drapery revealing the form.
(B) Gandhara drapery was plain, while Sarnath drapery was heavily ornamented.
(C) Gandhara sculptures were undraped, while Sarnath sculptures were fully clothed.
(D) Both schools depicted drapery in an identical, stylized manner.

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monumental Mauryan pillars, followed by the narrative relief sculptures of the Shunga period at Bharhut and Sanchi. Later, the Gandhara and Mathura schools emerged during the Kushana era, introducing iconic representations. Finally, the Sarnath school reached its zenith during the Gupta period, perfecting the classical Buddha image. This sequence reflects the maturation of artistic techniques.

9. (C) A highly spiritual and transcendent expression

Early Yaksha and Yakshi images represent the indigenous folk traditions and nature cults of ancient India. These monumental stone sculptures are characterized by their massive volume, robust physicality, and a distinct frontal posture. Unlike the later spiritual and transcendent figures of the Gupta period, these early icons exude a sense of earthly power and fertility. They were often placed in the open, reflecting their deep roots in popular religious practices.

10. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Gandhara school of art flourished in the northwestern region, serving as a cultural crossroads for centuries. Due to its strategic location on trade routes and the legacy of Alexander's invasion, the region absorbed significant Hellenistic and Roman artistic influences. This fusion resulted in Buddha images with Western features, such as wavy hair and realistic drapery. Consequently, the unique stylistic characteristics of Gandhara sculpture are directly linked to these historical interactions.

11. (D) Spotted red sandstone

The Mathura school of art, thriving during the Kushana period, utilized local materials to create its iconic sculptures. The primary medium was a distinctive spotted red sandstone found in the surrounding regions. This stone allowed artisans to produce robust and fleshy figures that contrasted with the schist used in Gandhara. Mathura served as a vital center for creating images for various religious traditions, including Buddhism, Jainism, and early Brahmanism.

12. (B) Bodhisattva of compassion

In Buddhist iconography, Tara is a prominent female deity primarily associated with compassion and protection. She is often considered a female counterpart to the Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara. According to tradition, she was born from his tears to assist him in his mission to save all sentient beings. Tara's worship grew significantly with the rise of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism, where she is revered as the mother of all Buddhas.

13. (C) Terracotta figurines were often mould-made, allowing for mass production.

Terracotta art in ancient India was a widespread medium accessible to various social classes. During the post-Mauryan and Kushana periods, the introduction of moulds revolutionized production, allowing for the mass creation of figurines. These items served both religious and secular purposes, ranging from votive offerings to toys and decorative panels. The use of moulds enabled greater consistency and detail, reflecting the evolving aesthetic tastes and growing demand for portable art.

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14. (D) Jainism

The rock-cut caves at Sittanavasal in Tamil Nadu are renowned for their exceptional mural paintings, which are primarily associated with the Jain tradition. These artworks depict themes central to Jainism, such as the Samavasarana or the celestial assembly of a Tirthankara. The paintings, featuring figures in a lotus pond, demonstrate the high level of artistic skill achieved by Jain monks and artists during the medieval period under Pandyan patronage.

15. (B) I, III, and V only

The Nagara style of temple architecture, prevalent in North India, is distinguished by several key structural components. Its most prominent feature is the curvilinear spire known as a shikhara, which is typically crowned by an amalaka and a kalasha. The main shrine is often situated on a raised platform called a jagati. These elements, combined with the absence of large gateways or boundary walls, differentiate Nagara temples from South Indian styles.

16. (B) The sanctum sanctorum where the main deity is housed

and twenty-fourth, respectively. Neminath is also a recognized Tirthankara, but the question likely aims to test knowledge of the most commonly cited figures or those with distinct iconographic symbols. All four names mentioned are indeed part of the Jain list of twenty-four realized beings.

77. (C) A main shrine surrounded by four subsidiary shrines.

The panchayatana style is a classic layout in Indian temple architecture that became popular during the Gupta and medieval periods. In this arrangement, the primary shrine housing the main deity is situated in the center of a raised platform. It is then surrounded by four smaller, subsidiary shrines located at the corners of the platform. This five-temple configuration symbolizes a cosmic order and can be seen in famous examples like the Dashavatara temple at Deogarh and several temples at Khajuraho.

78. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The origin of the Dravida style of temple architecture is indeed found in the monolithic rathas of Mahabalipuram, which served as architectural prototypes. However, these structures were not commissioned by the Chola dynasty. Instead, they were the product of the extraordinary patronage of the Pallava kings, particularly during the seventh century. The Pallavas pioneered both rock-cut and early structural temples in South India, laying the foundation upon which the Cholas later built their massive and imposing imperial monuments.

79. (A) Surya

The iconography of Shakti encompasses the diverse forms of the supreme female energy in the Hindu tradition. This includes benevolent forms like Parvati, the consort of Shiva, as well as powerful and fierce manifestations such as Durga and Kali, who are worshipped as destroyers of evil. These figures represent the active energy of the cosmos. Surya, however, is a male deity representing the Sun and belongs to a different iconographic category, though he occupies a significant place in Brahmanical worship.

80. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Ancient Indian art and architectural sites are distributed across various modern states, reflecting the historical reach of different dynasties. The Sittanavasal caves are located in Tamil Nadu, while the Bagh caves are found in Madhya Pradesh. The magnificent Hoysaleswara temple is a landmark of Karnataka's architectural heritage. The iconic Sun Temple at Konark is situated in Odisha. Each of these sites represents a major cultural achievement and is a vital source for understanding the regional history of India.

81. (B) Memorial pillars ('lashtis') with inscriptions and portraits

The Western Kshatrapas, who ruled parts of western India, made a significant contribution to the region's artistic record through the erection of memorial pillars known as lashtis. These stone pillars were set up to honor the memory of deceased individuals and typically included inscriptions detailing their names and sometimes their images. These lashtis provide important historical information about the social structure, patronage, and commemorative practices of the time, serving as a unique form of regional artistic expression.

82. (A) The post-Gupta phase (e.g., Ellora)

While the earliest rock-cut architecture was primarily Buddhist and Ajivika, the technique was later adopted by other religious traditions. During the post-Gupta phase, particularly between the sixth and tenth centuries, major sites like Ellora saw the creation of elaborate caves for Brahmanical and Jain use alongside continued Buddhist excavation. This period represents the culmination of the rock-cut tradition, where complex temple forms were carved from solid rock to serve a diverse range of spiritual practices in a single location.

83. (C) A Dravida-style plan with a Nagara-style superstructure.

The Vesara style is a hybrid architectural tradition that emerged in the Deccan region, particularly under the Chalukyas and Hoysalas. It is best described as a creative blend of the two major Indian styles. Typically, a Vesara temple follows the ground plan of the South Indian Dravida style but features a superstructure or shikhara that incorporates elements of the North Indian Nagara style. This synthesis resulted in a unique

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were meticulously developed to ensure the correct identification and worship of each divine figure.

24. (A) Nagara and Dravida

The Vesara style of temple architecture emerged as a unique hybrid tradition, primarily flourishing under the patronage of the Chalukyas and Hoysalas. It artistically combines features of the North Indian Nagara style, such as certain decorative motifs, with the structural layout of the South Indian Dravida style. This synthesis resulted in temples with a distinctive appearance that bridged the architectural gap between the two major traditions of the Indian subcontinent.

25. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Chola period is renowned for producing some of the finest bronze sculptures in history, with the Nataraja image being its most iconic masterpiece. These statues were created using the sophisticated lost-wax or cire perdue casting technique. This method allowed for incredible detail and fluidity of form, enabling Chola artisans to capture the dynamic energy of Shiva's cosmic dance. The royal patronage of the Chola rulers directly fostered this technological and artistic excellence.

26. (A) Rashtrakutas

The Kailasa temple at Ellora is a monumental achievement of Indian rock-cut architecture, commissioned during the eighth century by King Krishna I of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. Unlike standard structural temples, this entire complex was carved top-down from a single solid rock hillside. It represents the pinnacle of artistic skill and engineering, featuring elaborate carvings of Hindu mythology. The temple serves as a testament to the power and religious devotion of the Rashtrakuta rulers.

27. (D) Postpones nirvana to help others gain spiritual enlightenment.

In Mahayana Buddhism, a Bodhisattva is a central figure characterized by extreme compassion and wisdom. Unlike an Arhat, who seeks personal liberation, a Bodhisattva vows to attain full Buddhahood but chooses to delay their final entry into Nirvana. This postponement is intended to remain in the cycle of rebirth to assist all other sentient beings in overcoming suffering. This concept transformed Buddhist art, leading to the depiction of various merciful Bodhisattva figures.

28. (C) I and III only

Stupas in ancient India were constructed either as structural buildings or carved as rock-cut monuments. Structural stupas, like those at Sanchi and Amaravati, were built using layers of brick or stone masonry and often featured elaborate railings and gateways. In contrast, rock-cut stupas, such as those found at Bhaja and Karle, were excavated directly into the solid rock of cave shrines. Both forms served as important centers for Buddhist worship and relic veneration.

29. (C) They are exclusively dedicated to Shaivism.

The Khajuraho temple complex is a significant UNESCO World Heritage site built by the Chandela dynasty between the tenth and eleventh centuries. While many temples are dedicated to Shiva, the site is notably inclusive, featuring shrines for Vishnu and various Jain Tirthankaras as well. The architecture is famous for its soaring shikharas, high platforms, and intricate carvings that depict diverse aspects of human life, including religious themes and famous erotic scenes from medieval society.

30. (C) I, II, and III only

The temple architecture of Odisha represents a unique regional sub-style of the Nagara tradition, characterized by specific terminology and structural forms. The main sanctuary is known as the deul, while the assembly hall is called the jagamohana. The shikhara, or rekha deul, follows a nearly vertical path before curving sharply at the top. While these temples are enclosed by boundary walls, they typically lack the imposing entrance gateways or gopurams found in South India.

31. (A) Riding a chariot drawn by seven horses

Surya, the Sun God, occupies a prominent place in Hindu iconography and is often depicted with features reflecting his celestial nature. He is typically shown riding a magnificent chariot driven by the deity Aruna and pulled by seven horses, which represent the seven days of the

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depiction of madanikas or salabhanjikas, which are graceful female figures shown in various expressive poses. These carvings demonstrate the incredible precision and artistic mastery achieved by medieval Hoysala craftsmen using soapstone.

62. (D) Lion

In the Jain tradition, each of the twenty-four Tirthankaras is identified by a unique animal or object symbol known as a lanchhana. Mahavira, the twenty-fourth Tirthankara, is traditionally associated with the lion. This symbol is usually depicted at the base of his statues to distinguish him from other spiritual teachers who share similar meditative postures. The lion represents strength and the spiritual courage required to overcome the cycle of rebirth, reflecting Mahavira's role as a great teacher.

63. (A) Fresco-secco (tempera)

The world-famous mural paintings at Ajanta were created using a specific technique often referred to as fresco-secco or tempera. Unlike true fresco, where pigments are applied to wet plaster, the Ajanta artists applied their colors to a dry surface. The rock wall was first covered with a layer of clay, cow dung, and rice husks, followed by a thin coat of lime. This method allowed for great detail and rich coloration, preserving the vibrant narratives for over a millennium.

64. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Chalukyas of Badami were remarkable for their architectural experimentation during the early medieval period. At sites like Aihole, Badami, and Pattadakal, they developed temples that incorporated features from both the North Indian Nagara and South Indian Dravida traditions. Pattadakal, in particular, is significant because it houses a unique collection of temples where both styles exist side-by-side. This stylistic diversity reflects the Chalukyan rulers' role as patrons who fostered a creative synthesis of different regional architectural practices.

65. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

Indian temple architecture employs specific terminology for its various structural components. In the Nagara style, the shikhara is crowned by a notched stone disc called an amalaka, and the entire structure often sits on a raised platform known as a jagati. In the Dravida style, the tower over the sanctum is called a vimana, and the temple complex is accessed through massive, towering gateways known as gopurams. These terms help distinguish the unique characteristics of Northern and Southern traditions.

66. (A) Temple No. 17 at Sanchi

Temple No. 17 at Sanchi is a landmark structure representing the earliest phase of structural temple architecture in India, dating to the Gupta period. It is a simple, modest building consisting of a square sanctum sanctorum and a small pillared porch. Unlike later temples, it lacks a high shikhara, featuring a flat roof instead. This structure demonstrates the transition from rock-cut shrines to free-standing stone buildings, establishing the basic blueprint for the development of more elaborate Hindu temples.

67. (C) Pallava period at Mahabalipuram

The 'Descent of the Ganga', also known as 'Arjuna's Penance', is a massive and magnificent open-air relief carved into two giant granite boulders at Mahabalipuram. Created during the Pallava period in the seventh century, it depicts numerous figures, including gods, humans, and animals, all centered around a natural cleft representing the sacred river. This masterpiece showcases the Pallava artists' ability to narrate complex mythological stories on a monumental scale, making it one of the greatest works of Indian art.

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68. (D) It produced large panels for decorating brick temples.

During the Gupta period, terracotta art reached a high degree of sophistication and was integrated into monumental architecture. While stone sculpture was prominent, terracotta was extensively used to create large, detailed relief panels for decorating the exterior walls of brick temples, such as the one at Bhitargaon. These panels depicted various religious and secular themes, demonstrating that terracotta was not merely a folk medium but a refined artistic tradition that complemented the classical stone sculptures of the era.

69. (C) A Chaitya is a prayer hall, while a Vihara is a monastery.

ground plan and the use of soft chloritic schist, or soapstone, which permitted extremely fine carving. The exterior walls are typically covered with profuse sculptural friezes. While they have superstructures, they lack the massive, towering pyramidal vimanas seen in Chola temples, focusing instead on horizontal complexity and intricate detail.

40. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Gupta period is widely recognized as the formative era for Indian temple architecture. During this time, builders moved away from rock-cut caves to construct free-standing structural temples using stone and brick. This transition allowed for greater architectural experimentation, leading to the development of fundamental features like the shikhara and the garbha-griha. These innovations established a foundational blueprint that influenced the subsequent growth of both Northern and Southern styles during the medieval period.

41. (B) Architecture

Architecture serves as a vital primary source for reconstructing India's past. These physical structures reflect the religious beliefs, societal values, and technological advancements of their time. From the early rock-cut caves to the elaborate medieval temples, architectural remains provide tangible evidence of artistic traditions and state patronage. They offer insights into the cultural synthesis and stylistic evolution that characterized different historical periods across the subcontinent, making them indispensable for historical study.

42. (A) The circumambulatory passageway

The pradakshinapatha is an essential architectural feature in both Buddhist stupas and Hindu temples, designed for the ritual of circumambulation. Devotees walk along this path in a clockwise direction as a mark of respect and devotion to the sacred relics or the deity housed within the structure. In stupas, this path is often enclosed by railings, while in temples, it may be an open or covered corridor surrounding the sanctum sanctorum or garbhagriha.

43. (D) Shungas

The Shunga dynasty played a crucial role in the development of Buddhist art by patronizing the expansion of major stupas. While the original structures at Sanchi and Bharhut were established during the Mauryan period, it was under the Shungas that these monuments were significantly enlarged and renovated. This period saw the replacement of wooden railings with stone ones and the addition of elaborately carved gateways, reflecting the transition from early symbolic art to more complex narrative reliefs.

44. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

While rock-cut architecture initially served Buddhist and Ajivika needs, Brahmanical examples emerged later, gaining prominence during the Gupta period. The Udayagiri caves in Madhya Pradesh are among the most significant early Brahmanical rock-cut shrines, featuring iconic reliefs like the Varaha avatar of Vishnu. These excavations demonstrate how Vedic and Puranic traditions adapted the existing rock-cut techniques to create permanent sacred spaces for idol worship, marking a pivotal shift in religious architectural practices in ancient India.

45. (B) I, II, III, and V only

The Dravida style of temple architecture, characteristic of South India, is defined by several distinct features. The main tower, or vimana, takes the form of a stepped pyramid. Temple complexes are typically enclosed by high compound walls and feature massive entrance gateways known as gopurams. Additionally, the presence of a large water tank within the enclosure is a common element. Unlike the Nagara style, the top of the tower is crowned by a dome-shaped stupika.

46. (D) Gupta period

The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is a quintessential example of early structural temple architecture from the Gupta period. It is one of the earliest surviving temples to feature a shikhara, albeit a short and experimental one, over the sanctum. Built on a raised platform, it follows the panchayatana plan with exquisite relief panels depicting various incarnations of Vishnu. This temple signifies the transition from simple shrines to more complex, decorated architectural forms in North India.

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In the layout of an Indian temple, the garbhagriha represents the most sacred space. Translated as the womb chamber, it is a small, unadorned room that serves as the sanctum sanctorum where the principal deity's idol or symbol is installed. This area is the focus of all ritual activity and worship. Its simple architecture contrasts with the elaborate exterior of the temple, symbolizing the transition from the material to the spiritual realm.

17. (B) Vikramaditya II

The Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal stands as a magnificent example of Early Chalukyan architecture. It was commissioned by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate the military victories of King Vikramaditya II over the Pallavas. The design was significantly influenced by the Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram, which the king had admired during his campaigns. This interaction highlights the exchange of artistic ideas between the rival Chalukya and Pallava dynasties in the eighth century.

18. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The rock-cut caves at Ajanta are world-famous for their mural paintings that primarily narrate the life of the Buddha and Jataka tales. In contrast, the contemporary Bagh caves in Madhya Pradesh, while also Buddhist, exhibit a more secular character in their artwork. The Bagh murals depict scenes of courtly life, music, and dance, alongside religious themes. While both sites share similar artistic techniques, their thematic focus differs significantly between narrative and decorative.

19. (C) The presence of a curvilinear shikhara, typical of the Nagara style.

Pallava rock-cut architecture evolved through several distinct stages, beginning with simple pillared halls called mandapas. This was followed by the creation of monolithic shrines known as rathas, which carved entire temple forms from single boulders. These structures laid the foundation for the Dravida style, characterized by pyramidal towers. Unlike the Nagara style of North India, Pallava architecture does not feature curvilinear shikharas, instead emphasizing stepped pyramidal superstructures and barrel-vaulted roofs.

20. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Major Indian dynasties left behind remarkable architectural legacies across the subcontinent. The Chandelas built the elaborate temples at Khajuraho, while the Cholas are responsible for the massive Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur. The Rashtrakutas carved the extraordinary monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora from a single rock. Meanwhile, the Pallavas pioneered South Indian architecture with the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram. Each site represents the peak of artistic achievement for its respective ruling dynasty.

21. (C) A bull

In Jain iconography, each of the twenty-four Tirthankaras is associated with a specific symbol known as a lanchhana to aid identification. Rishabhdev, also known as Adinath, is traditionally represented with the sign of a bull. This emblem is usually carved at the base of his statues. Such symbolic associations were standardized to distinguish between various spiritual teachers, as their physical depictions in sculpture often appeared identical in posture and expression.

22. (B) Idealized, serene, and spiritually transcendent Buddha images.

The Sarnath school of sculpture reached its artistic peak during the Gupta period, creating highly influential Buddha images. These figures are celebrated for their serene, introspective expressions and idealized proportions that convey a sense of spiritual transcendence. A key technical feature is the use of thin, transparent drapery that reveals the underlying form of the body. This style contrasts with the more robust and heavy-set figures found in earlier artistic traditions like Mathura.

23. (D) Brahma - Damaru (Drum)

In Hindu iconography, each deity is associated with specific attributes that represent their cosmic functions. Shiva is often identified with the damaru, which symbolizes the sound of creation. Brahma, the creator god, is typically depicted with four heads, a water pot, a rosary, and the Vedas, but the drum is not among his standard symbols. These iconographic details

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century, it represents the zenith of the Nagara style of architecture. The temple is famous for its soaring shikhara, which consists of numerous smaller spires resembling a mountain range. Its exterior is adorned with over eight hundred intricately carved figures, showcasing the exceptional artistic skill of the medieval Indian craftsmen.

55. (C) A is true but R is false.

Rock-cut architecture is a remarkable technique where entire structures are carved directly from solid natural rock, as seen at sites like Ajanta and Ellora. While this method required immense labor and precision, the resulting buildings were exceptionally durable and permanent compared to free-standing structures made of blocks. Once carved, these monuments were less susceptible to structural collapse or decay over time. The technique was widely used in ancient India for creating sanctuaries that have survived for thousands of years.

56. (A) A third eye (trinetra)

Brahma, the creator god in the Hindu trinity, is depicted with specific iconographic features that symbolize his role. He is traditionally shown with four heads, representing the four Vedas or the cardinal directions, and holds a water pot and a rosary. However, the third eye, or trinetra, is a distinctive attribute of Shiva, symbolizing his transformative power and wisdom. Brahma's iconography is designed to reflect his peaceful and creative nature, distinct from the other major deities of Brahmanism.

57. (C) Elaborately carved gateway

In the architecture of a stupa, particularly at Sanchi, the torana refers to the magnificently carved free-standing gateway. There are four such gateways located at the cardinal points of the stone railing enclosing the stupa. These toranas are famous for their detailed relief sculptures depicting Jataka tales, scenes from the life of the Buddha, and various floral and animal motifs. They represent the transition from the secular world to the sacred space of the stupa during the Shunga period.

58. (A) IV, II, III, I

The evolution of temple architecture in South India followed a clear chronological path through the patronage of different dynasties. The Chalukyas of Badami began experimenting with various styles in the sixth century. They were followed by the Pallavas, who pioneered rock-cut rathas and early structural temples. The Rashtrakutas then created monumental works like the Kailasa temple at Ellora. Finally, the Cholas reached the peak of the Dravida style with their massive structural temples in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

59. (D) Gandhara and Mathura schools.

The transition from symbolic to human representation of the Buddha occurred during the Kushana period through the simultaneous efforts of the Gandhara and Mathura schools. Before this era, the Buddha was represented only through symbols. The Gandhara school, influenced by Hellenistic traditions, created images with Western features, while the Mathura school developed a more indigenous style with robust figures. Together, these schools established the foundational icons of Buddhist art that spread throughout Asia, marking a pivotal moment in history.

60. (B) I, II, and III only

The Pala school of sculpture flourished in the Bengal and Bihar regions between the eighth and twelfth centuries. This tradition is noted for its high level of craftsmanship, primarily using fine-grained black basalt and metal for casting. The artworks represent a synthesis of Buddhist and Brahmanical themes, often featuring Mahayana and Vajrayana deities. Far from being rustic, Pala art is characterized by sophisticated modeling, elegant proportions, and elaborate ornamentation, which significantly influenced the artistic traditions of neighboring regions.

61. (C) Elaborate depictions of Hindu epics and Puranic female figures.

Hoysala temple architecture is renowned for its extraordinary level of sculptural detail, which covers nearly every inch of the exterior walls. The primary themes involve elaborate narrations from the great Hindu epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, alongside various Puranic myths. A particularly famous feature is the

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47. (A) Memorial stones called 'lashtis' with portrait figures

During the Western Kshatrapa period, a unique artistic tradition emerged in the form of memorial stones known as lashtis. These pillars were erected to commemorate deceased individuals and often featured inscriptions along with rudimentary portrait figures. This practice highlights a specific cultural development in the western regions of India, where memorialization became an important aspect of social and religious life. These stones serve as valuable historical records of the people and patronage of that era.

48. (B) The dynamic female energy personified as a consort.

In Hindu iconography, Shakti represents the fundamental female principle and the active, dynamic energy of the universe. She is often personified as the consort of a male deity, such as Parvati for Shiva or Lakshmi for Vishnu. This concept emphasizes the interdependence of the masculine and feminine aspects of divinity, where Shakti provides the power through which the deity acts. Her various forms range from benevolent mothers to fierce warriors, reflecting diverse cosmic functions.

49. (B) Amaravati

Mauryan pillar capitals are among the finest examples of ancient Indian court art, traditionally associated with sites like Sarnath, Rampurva, and Lauriya Nandangarh. These monolithic pillars were topped with magnificently carved animal figures and finished with a characteristic lustrous polish. Amaravati, however, is primarily known for its later Satavahana-period stupa and exquisite narrative relief sculptures carved in limestone. Therefore, it is not considered a site for the original Mauryan pillar capitals that characterized Ashoka's reign.

50. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

Iconography uses specific symbols and postures to identify various deities across Indian religious traditions. Ganesha is recognized by his elephant head and the modaka sweet he often holds. Vishnu is frequently depicted in the Sheshashayana pose, reclining on the serpent Shesha. Tirthankara Parshvanath is identified by a protective canopy of serpent hoods above him. The Buddha at Sarnath is classically shown in the Dharmachakra mudra, representing the delivery of his first sermon to his disciples.

51. (C) Jainism

The colossal monolithic statue of Gommateshwara, also known as Bahubali, at Shravanabelagola is a supreme masterpiece of Jain art. Carved from a single block of granite in the tenth century, it represents the spiritual ideals of renunciation and meditation central to the Jain faith. Bahubali is shown in the kayotsarga posture, standing perfectly still with such intense devotion that vines are depicted growing around his legs. This site remains one of the most important pilgrimage destinations for Jains.

52. (D) Bronze sculptures

The lost-wax or cire perdue technique is an ancient and sophisticated method of metal casting used primarily for creating bronze sculptures. It involves making a wax model, encasing it in clay, and then replacing the melted wax with molten metal. This process allows for incredible detail and complexity of form, as seen in the Harappan dancing girl and the magnificent Chola bronzes. It remains a vital tradition in Indian metallurgy, enabling the production of hollow or solid metal icons.

53. (C) South Indian stupas have an ayaka platform with five pillars.

While stupas across India share a basic hemispherical form, regional variations emerged over time. A defining feature of South Indian stupas, particularly those from the Andhra region like Amaravati, is the presence of an ayaka platform at each of the four cardinal points. These platforms support five tall pillars, known as ayaka-stambhas, which are absent in North Indian stupas like Sanchi. These pillars are believed to symbolize significant events in the Buddha's life or various Buddhist concepts.

54. (B) Khajuraho

The Kandariya Mahadeva temple is the largest and most magnificent structure within the Khajuraho temple complex in Madhya Pradesh. Built by the Chandela rulers in the eleventh

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In the context of Buddhist rock-cut architecture, chaityas and viharas served distinct and essential functions for the monastic community. A chaitya was a dedicated congregational hall designed for prayer and worship, typically featuring a stupa at one end as the object of veneration. In contrast, a vihara was a monastery that provided residential quarters for the monks. It usually consisted of a central courtyard surrounded by small individual cells where the monks lived, studied, and meditated.

70. (C) A true but R is false.

The temples of Odisha, such as the Lingaraja temple, represent a highly developed regional variation of the Nagara style. They are characterized by a unique curvilinear tower known as a rekha deul and a separate assembly hall called a jagamohana. However, the assertion that they do not use the amalaka is incorrect. In fact, the crowning of the shikhara with a large, prominent amalaka is a defining feature of Odishan architecture, along with the distinctive vertical and horizontal moldings.

71. (D) Chola art

The magnificent bronze image of Nataraja, depicting Shiva performing his cosmic dance of creation and destruction, is the most celebrated achievement of Chola art. Created using the lost-wax casting technique, these sculptures are renowned for their perfect balance, fluid movement, and profound symbolism. The Nataraja image captures the essence of Hindu philosophy in a dynamic physical form. Under the patronage of the Chola kings, this tradition of bronze casting reached a level of excellence that remains unsurpassed.

72. (A) Mace (Gada)

In Hindu iconography, the god Vishnu is typically depicted with four primary attributes, each possessing its own symbolic name. The Kaumodaki is the name given to his powerful mace, or gada, which represents the force of knowledge and the power to destroy ignorance. His other standard attributes include the Sudarshana Chakra (discus), the Panchajanya (conch), and the Padma (lotus). These specific identifications were essential for the correct portrayal of the deity in both sculpture and painting traditions.

73. (C) Udayagiri (near Vidisha)

Many famous rock-cut cave sites in India are primarily associated with Buddhism, including Ajanta, Karle, and Bhaja. These sites contain magnificent chaityas and viharas that served the needs of the Buddhist monastic community for centuries. However, the Udayagiri caves near Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh are distinct because they are among the earliest surviving examples of Brahmanical rock-cut shrines. Excavated during the Gupta period, they feature iconic reliefs dedicated to Hindu deities like Vishnu in his Varaha avatar.

74. (A) Palnad marble (a type of limestone)

The art of the Satavahana period, which flourished in the Deccan region, is best represented by the magnificent stupa at Amaravati. The sculptures here are uniquely characterized by the use of a local white-greenish limestone often referred to as Palnad marble. This material allowed for extremely fine and delicate carving, enabling artists to create crowded, dynamic narrative panels with slender and elegant figures. This distinctive style represents a major highlight of early Indian artistic tradition in the southern region.

75. (A) I, II, and III only

The Sarnath school of sculpture during the Gupta period is celebrated for its spiritual depth and technical refinement. Using local Chunar sandstone, artists created Buddha images characterized by serene, introspective expressions and idealized proportions. A key feature is the transparent drapery that elegantly reveals the form of the body. Unlike the earlier Gandhara school, the figures lack heavy muscularity, and the halos are often elaborately decorated with floral and geometric motifs, reflecting a purely indigenous classical artistic vision.

76. (B) Neminath

In the Jain religious tradition, there are twenty-four Tirthankaras who are revered as spiritual teachers and conquerors of the cycle of rebirth. Rishabhdev is considered the first, while Parshvanath and Mahavira are the twenty-third

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week or the colors of light. Surya is also frequently shown wearing high boots, a stylistic influence attributed to historical cultural exchanges with Central Asian traditions.

32. (B) A shikhara composed of miniature motifs in vertical bands.

The Bhumija style is a specialized sub-tradition of Nagara temple architecture that flourished primarily in the Malwa region under the Paramaras. Its most distinctive feature is the composition of the shikhara, which is adorned with miniature shrine motifs, or urushringas, arranged in precise horizontal and vertical rows. This creates a complex, textured appearance on the spire. This style represents a high level of mathematical precision and artistic refinement in medieval North Indian architectural design.

33. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Satavahana art, particularly flourishing at major centers like Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda, is celebrated for its narrative depth and stylistic elegance. The sculptures often feature crowded relief panels that vividly depict various Jataka tales and significant episodes from the Buddha's life. The artistic style is characterized by slender, lithe figures shown in dynamic and expressive poses. This tradition reflects a high degree of sophistication in early South Indian artistic expression and religious storytelling techniques.

34. (A) The square railing-like structure on top of the dome

The harmika is a critical symbolic component of a Buddhist stupa, located at the very summit of the hemispherical dome. It takes the form of a square, railing-like structure that traditionally represents the abode of the gods or the sacred space enclosing the world axis. From the center of the harmika rises the mast, which supports the tiered umbrellas known as chhatras. This architectural feature emphasizes the sacred nature of the relics housed within.

35. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-2, S-4

Rock-cut sites in India often reflect the religious diversity of the regions where they were excavated. Ajanta is exclusively dedicated to Buddhist themes, containing numerous chaityas and viharas. In contrast, Ellora is unique for housing Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jain shrines in a single complex. Udayagiri and Khandagiri in Odisha are primarily associated with Jainism, while the Elephanta caves are renowned for their magnificent Brahmanical reliefs, particularly those dedicated to the various forms of Shiva.

36. (D) Shakyamuni Buddha

In the earliest phase of Buddhist art, the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni, was never depicted in human form. Instead, his presence was indicated through a variety of symbols, reflecting a period known as aniconic art. These symbols included an empty throne, representing his enlightenment; a pair of footprints, signifying his journey; or a Bodhi tree, under which he attained supreme wisdom. The transition to anthropomorphic or human representations only occurred later during the Kushana period.

37. (C) Highly polished black basalt stone and ornate detailing

The Pala school of sculpture flourished in the Bengal and Bihar regions under the patronage of the Pala dynasty. This artistic tradition is renowned for its use of fine-grained black basalt stone, which allowed for extremely detailed and intricate carving. The sculptures, representing both Buddhist and Brahmanical deities, are characterized by a high degree of polish, slender forms, and elaborate ornamentation. This style significantly influenced the medieval art of Southeast Asia and Tibet.

38. (B) A peacock

Kartikeya, also known as Murugan or Skanda, is the Hindu god of war and the commander of the divine army. In iconography, he is consistently associated with the peacock, which serves as his sacred mount or vahana. The peacock symbolizes beauty and the destruction of harmful elements, often shown clutching a serpent in its talons. Kartikeya is typically depicted as a youthful deity holding a spear, reflecting his role as a powerful protector and warrior.

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39. (D) A towering, pyramidal vimana.

Hoysala temple architecture is celebrated for its unique and highly decorative style, differing significantly from the standard Dravida tradition. Key features include a star-shaped or stellate

architectural aesthetic that bridged the regional traditions of the subcontinent.

84. (D) Shiva

The Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur is a supreme masterpiece of Chola architecture and is dedicated to Shiva. Built by King Rajaraja I in the early eleventh century, the temple houses a colossal Shiva Linga in its sanctum. The structure is famous for its massive vimana, which rises to a height of over sixty meters, and its magnificent bronze sculptures and mural paintings. It stands as a powerful symbol of the Chola Empire's religious devotion and architectural grandeur.

85. (C) I, II, and III only

The Mathura school of art thrived during the Kushana period and is known for its indigenous character and diverse subject matter. Using local spotted red sandstone, artists produced icons for Buddhism, Jainism, and Brahmanism. The Buddha images are characterized by robust, fleshy bodies, reflecting an earlier tradition of Yaksha figures. While it existed alongside the Gandhara school, Mathura art remained deeply rooted in Indian aesthetic traditions and actually influenced the development of Buddhist imagery across the country and beyond.

86. (B) It symbolizes royalty and protection for the sacred relics within.

The chhatra, or umbrella, placed at the very top of a stupa is a powerful symbolic element. In ancient Indian culture, the umbrella was a traditional emblem of royalty and high status. When used in stupa architecture, it signifies the supreme spiritual sovereignty of the Buddha and provides symbolic protection for the sacred relics housed within the dome. Often appearing in tiers, the chhatras also represent various levels of heavens or spiritual stages on the path to final enlightenment.

87. (D) Hand-modelled figurines often representing mother goddesses.

Mauryan terracotta art is distinguished by its predominantly hand-modelled technique, which gives the figures an archaic and robust appearance. These early terracottas often represent female figures interpreted as mother goddesses, characterized by elaborate headdresses and heavy ornamentation. This folk tradition existed alongside the sophisticated court art of the Mauryan period. Unlike later periods where moulds became common for mass production, Mauryan terracottas retain a unique, individualized quality that reflects the indigenous artistic sensibilities of the common people during that time.

88. (A) A Samavasarana scene with a lotus pond

The mural paintings in the Sittanavasal caves are celebrated for their vivid depiction of Jain religious themes. A central subject is the Samavasarana, which represents the celestial audience hall where a Tirthankara delivers his first sermon. The paintings famously include a beautiful scene of a lotus pond filled with flowers, birds, and animals, alongside figures of monks and celestial beings. These artworks demonstrate the high level of refinement and spiritual grace achieved in Jain painting during the medieval period in South India.

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89. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Shunga period witnessed a significant maturation of indigenous artistic traditions, especially at sites like Bharhut and Sanchi. The sculptural work from this era represents a departure from the monumental court art of the Mauryas, focusing instead on detailed narrative reliefs. These carvings exhibit greater clarity in storytelling and more complex compositions, effectively illustrating Jataka tales and scenes from the Buddha's life. This development reflects a growing sophistication in visual narration and a deep engagement with popular religious themes during the Shunga reign.

90. (C) A is true but R is false.

The Kailasa temple at Ellora is indeed a unique architectural marvel, being a massive monolithic structure carved top-down from a single piece of rock. This method required extraordinary planning and precision. However, the reason provided is incorrect. This technique was not a continuation of the methods used for structural temples like those at Khajuraho. Structural temples are built by assembling stone blocks from the ground up, which is a fundamentally different engineering process than the subtractive method of rock-cut carving.

The Gandhara and Mathura schools of art did not develop in isolation. While they had distinct stylistic origins, they were contemporary traditions flourishing under the Kushana Empire and shared significant cross-influences. Both schools were instrumental in creating the first anthropomorphic images of the Buddha, transitioning from earlier symbolic representations. Gandhara art incorporated Hellenistic features, while Mathura art was more indigenous. The exchange of ideas between these two major centers played a crucial role in shaping the foundational iconography of Buddhist art throughout the subcontinent.

135. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Sun Temple at Konark is a spectacular architectural achievement conceived as a colossal stone chariot for the Sun God, Surya. Built in the thirteenth century, the temple is situated on a high platform decorated with twenty-four giant, intricately carved wheels. It is symbolically shown as being pulled by seven powerful horses, which represent the seven days of the week or the colors of light. This grand design reflects the deep religious devotion and the sophisticated engineering skills of the medieval Odishan builders.

136. (A) Pallavas

The Pallava dynasty played a pioneering role in the development of South Indian architecture, initiating what would become the Dravidian style. Through their rock-cut mandapas and monolithic rathas at Mahabalipuram, they created the foundational models for later temple forms. Their subsequent construction of structural temples, like the Shore Temple and the Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram, further refined the stepped pyramidal tower known as the vimana. The Pallava artistic legacy provided the essential blueprint that was later expanded upon by the Cholas and other southern dynasties.

137. (C) The moment of calling the Earth to witness his enlightenment.

In Buddhist iconography, the bhumisparsha mudra is a highly significant gesture where the Buddha is shown seated with his right hand reaching down to touch the earth. This mudra symbolizes the crucial moment of his enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, where he called upon the Earth Goddess to bear witness to his spiritual victory over the temptations of Mara. It represents his firm resolve and the attainment of supreme wisdom. This posture became one of the most iconic and frequently depicted images of the Buddha across Asia.

138. (A) Massive and imposing gopurams

Hoysala temple architecture is uniquely characterized by its intricate detail and complex ground plans, differing from the imperial Chola style. Key features include stellate or star-shaped ground plans and the use of soft soapstone, which allowed for profuse and extremely fine sculptural decoration. The exterior walls are typically covered with multiple horizontal bands of carvings. However, unlike Chola temples, they do not feature massive and imposing gopurams. Instead, the focus remains on the horizontal expansion and the incredible richness of the stone carvings at eye level.

139. (D) Vibrant mural paintings depicting secular life

The rock-cut caves at Bagh in Madhya Pradesh are contemporary to the later phase of Ajanta and are most famous for their vibrant mural paintings. While the site is Buddhist, the artworks are remarkable for their focus on secular and humanistic themes alongside religious ones. They vividly depict scenes of courtly life, including royal processions, music, and dance performances, with a great sense of dynamism and rich coloration. These paintings offer a valuable glimpse into the social and cultural vibrancy of the Gupta period beyond purely religious contexts.

140. (B) Ellora

Ellora is a unique and magnificent rock-cut site that serves as a testament to the religious harmony and artistic diversity of ancient India. It contains thirty-four caves excavated from a single basaltic hillside, representing all three major ancient Indian religions: Buddhism, Brahmanism (Hinduism), and Jainism. The site includes Buddhist viharas, grand Brahmanical temples like the monolithic Kailasa, and serene Jain shrines. This coexistence of diverse spiritual traditions in one location highlights

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great antiquity of bronze casting in the Indian subcontinent. Created using the sophisticated lost-wax or cire perdue technique over four thousand years ago, this small bronze statue exhibits a high level of artistic skill and anatomical understanding. It serves as a precursor to the long and rich tradition of metal sculpture in India, which later reached its pinnacle during the Chola period with masterpieces like the Nataraja.

99. (C) The rock-cut Kailasa Temple at Ellora

The Rashtrakuta dynasty left an indelible mark on Indian architecture with the creation of the Kailasa temple at Ellora. Carved during the eighth century under the patronage of King Krishna I, this colossal monolithic structure was excavated from the top down out of a single granite hillside. It is considered one of the most spectacular achievements of human engineering and artistic devotion, featuring elaborate relief sculptures that depict a wide range of Hindu mythological themes and legends in extraordinary detail.

100. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Major Indian dynasties are associated with specific artistic centers that define their cultural legacy. The Hoysalas are famous for their intricate soapstone temples at Halebidu, while the Chandelas built the spectacular complex at Khajuraho. The Guptas established foundational structural temples like the one at Deogarh. The Satavahanas are primarily remembered for the exquisite Buddhist art at Amaravati. These sites collectively illustrate the diverse architectural and sculptural heritage fostered by various regional powers across different periods of Indian history.

101. (C) Jataka tales and events from the life of the Buddha

The gateways, or toranas, of the Great Stupa at Sanchi are renowned for their extraordinarily detailed relief sculptures. The primary subject matter consists of various Jataka tales, which narrate the previous lives of the Buddha, and significant events from his final life, such as his birth, enlightenment, and first sermon. These carvings provide a rich visual narrative of Buddhist teachings and mythology. They also include depictions of devotees, nature spirits, and auspicious symbols, reflecting the vibrant religious culture of the Shunga period.

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102. (B) Nagara

The Bhumija style is a highly refined sub-tradition of the North Indian Nagara architectural tradition. It flourished primarily in the Malwa region under the patronage of the Paramara dynasty during the medieval period. The defining feature of a Bhumija temple is its shikhara, which is decorated with miniature shrine-like motifs, or urushringas, arranged in precise vertical and horizontal rows. This creates a complex and textured appearance on the spire, representing a high level of mathematical precision and artistic sophistication in temple design.

103. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The Lomas Rishi cave, dating back to the Mauryan period, is a crucial monument for understanding the transition to rock-cut architecture. While some early caves had simple designs, the Lomas Rishi cave is famous for its sophisticated facade. This entrance is meticulously carved to imitate contemporary wooden architecture, featuring a detailed chaitya arch and even representations of wooden beams. The interior, however, is not plain but displays the characteristic high polish found in Mauryan stone work, showcasing the advanced craftsmanship of that era.

104. (A) Elongated, graceful, and dynamic figures

The sculptural style of the Chandela period, as seen at the Khajuraho temples, is characterized by a high degree of refinement and elegance. The figures, including deities, celestial beings, and ordinary humans, are depicted with elongated bodies, graceful postures, and a sense of dynamic movement. This artistic approach creates a vibrant and lively atmosphere on the temple walls. The intricate details of jewelry, hairstyles, and expressions demonstrate the exceptional skill of the medieval artisans in capturing both physical beauty and emotional depth.

105. (C) I, II, III, and IV only

Shiva's iconography is rich with symbolic attributes that represent his diverse roles and nature. He is often depicted with matted locks from which the river Ganga flows, a crescent moon on his head, and a serpent around his neck. The third eye on his forehead symbolizes his cosmic wisdom and transformative power.

91. (D) Pallavas

The seven monolithic shrines at Mahabalipuram, famously known as the Rathas, were created under the patronage of the Pallava dynasty during the seventh century. These structures are remarkable because each one was carved from a single large granite boulder to resemble a fully formed temple. They were named after the Pandavas and Draupadi from the Mahabharata. These Rathas served as architectural models for the later development of the Dravida style, showcasing the Pallavas' pioneering role in South Indian architecture.

92. (B) Avalokiteshvara (Padmapani)

In Buddhist iconography, the Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara is one of the most revered figures, symbolizing infinite compassion. When he is depicted holding a lotus, or padma, in his hand, he is specifically known as Padmapani. This form is famously represented in the mural paintings of Ajanta Cave No. 1. The lotus symbolizes spiritual purity and the potential for enlightenment amidst the suffering of the world. Avalokiteshvara remains a central figure in Mahayana Buddhism, embodying the ideal of helping all sentient beings.

93. (C) Nagara (Kalinga sub-style)

The temples of Odisha, including landmarks like the Lingaraja temple in Bhubaneswar and the Sun Temple at Konark, belong to a distinct regional variation of the Nagara style known as the Kalinga sub-style. This tradition is characterized by specific architectural elements such as the rekha deul (the main sanctum tower) and the jagamohana (the assembly hall). These temples are famous for their vertical emphasis, intricate carvings, and unique structural plans that reflect the artistic refinement of the medieval Odishan builders.

94. (D) It produced the earliest known images for Jain Tirthankaras.

The Gandhara school of art flourished in the northwestern frontier of ancient India and is renowned for its fusion of Indian and Hellenistic styles. It primarily used blue-grey schist to create realistic images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas, featuring Western-style drapery and wavy hair. However, it was not the source of the earliest Jain Tirthankara images. Instead, the earliest known icons of Jain spiritual teachers are attributed to the Mathura school, which developed indigenous representations for all three major Indian religious traditions.

95. (A) I, II, III, and V only

A fully developed Nagara style temple complex is characterized by several core architectural components. These include the garbhagriha or sanctum sanctorum, the soaring curvilinear spire known as a shikhara, and an assembly hall called a mandapa. The entire structure is often situated on a raised platform known as a jagati. Unlike the Dravida style of South India, Nagara temples typically do not feature large, imposing entrance gateways or gopurams, focusing instead on the verticality and sculptural richness of the main shrine.

96. (B) A seven-hooded serpent

Parshvanath, the twenty-third Tirthankara of Jainism, is one of the most easily identifiable figures in Jain sculpture. He is uniquely depicted with a protective canopy of a seven-hooded serpent, known as Dharanendra, over his head. This iconographic feature commemorates a specific event where the serpent king protected Parshvanath from a storm while he was in deep meditation. This distinctive attribute allows devotees to distinguish him from other Tirthankaras, who are often portrayed in similar meditative postures but with different symbols.

97. (B) Built up layer by layer using brick or stone.

Structural stupas are monuments that were constructed using building materials like brick or stone masonry, as opposed to being excavated from solid rock. These structures were built up layer by layer to form a solid hemispherical dome. Major examples include the Great Stupa at Sanchi and the stupa at Amaravati. This method allowed for the creation of much larger and more elaborate monuments, which were often finished with stone casings, railings, and magnificently carved gateways to honor the relics.

98. (A) Bronze casting

The famous 'dancing girl' figurine from Mohenjo-Daro is a remarkable artifact that proves the

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of granite and magnificent bronze sculptures, reflect the imperial power and religious devotion of the Chola dynasty during its peak.

113. (B) Kushana

The Kushana period marked a major turning point in Buddhist art with the transition from symbolic to human representation of the Buddha. Before this era, artists used symbols like footprints or a Bodhi tree to indicate his presence. Under the Kushanas, both the Gandhara and Mathura schools began creating anthropomorphic images, portraying the Buddha in various postures and mudras. This development allowed for a more personal and direct connection between the devotee and the divine, forever changing the course of Buddhist iconography.

114. (A) They were exclusively associated with the Buddhist faith

Early Yaksha and Yakshi images are monumental stone sculptures that reflect the deep-rooted folk traditions and nature cults of ancient India. While they were later incorporated into Buddhist, Jain, and Brahmanical art, they originated as representations of local protective deities associated with fertility, wealth, and nature. These colossal figures, characterized by their robust physicality and frontal poses, represent an indigenous artistic tradition that predates and influenced the development of formal religious iconography in the subcontinent, showcasing the richness of popular beliefs.

115. (B) II and III only

The paintings in the Bagh caves, while contemporary to the later phase of Ajanta, exhibit a distinct character. While they share the Buddhist affiliation of the site, the murals are famous for their vibrant and secular themes. They vividly depict scenes of courtly life, including royal processions, as well as musical and dance performances. These artworks provide valuable insights into the social and cultural life of the Gupta period, demonstrating that ancient Indian painting was not limited strictly to religious narratives but also captured the secular beauty of human existence.

116. (D) Nagara temple architecture

The philosophy of Nagara temple architecture is deeply rooted in cosmic symbolism, where the temple structure is viewed as a model of the universe. The towering spire, or shikhara, is envisioned as the sacred Mount Meru, the axis of the world. This vertical emphasis represents the spiritual ascent of the devotee from the material world to divine consciousness. Every component of the temple, from the base to the final, reflects this symbolic connection between the earthly realm and the celestial order.

117. (C) Brahmanical shrines are centered around a garbha-griha for an idol.

Brahmanical rock-cut shrines differ fundamentally from Buddhist chaitya halls in their internal layout and ritual focus. While a chaitya is designed as a congregational prayer hall centered around a stupa, a Brahmanical shrine is focused on the garbhagriha, or sanctum sanctorum. This small, dark chamber is designed to house the idol or symbol of the deity, reflecting the central importance of image worship in Hindu traditions. This architectural focus on the sanctum became a defining feature as temple architecture transitioned from rock-cut to structural forms.

118. (B) Temple architecture

The development of distinct regional styles like Nagara, Dravida, and Vesara primarily pertains to the evolution of temple architecture in ancient and medieval India. These styles emerged as builders experimented with different forms and structures for housing deities. The Nagara style flourished in the North, the Dravida in the South, and the Vesara as a hybrid tradition in the Deccan. These architectural variations reflect the diverse cultural, religious, and artistic influences that shaped the religious landscape of the Indian subcontinent over several centuries.

119. (D) Porch or assembly hall for devotees

In the architectural plan of an Indian temple, the mandapa serves as a crucial space for the congregational activities of devotees. It is an assembly hall or porch that precedes the sanctum sanctorum, or garbhagriha. Depending on the size and complexity of the temple, there may be multiple mandapas used for various purposes such as prayer, dance, or religious discourses.

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These halls are often elaborately carved and pillared, providing a transition between the outer world and the sacred inner shrine.

120. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Each major school of Indian sculpture is characterized by its preference for specific regional materials. The Gandhara school primarily used blue-grey schist to create realistic, Greco-Roman influenced images. The Mathura school utilized local spotted red sandstone for its robust and indigenous figures. The Pala school in Eastern India is renowned for its highly polished black basalt sculptures. Finally, the Hoysala school used soft soapstone, which allowed for the extraordinary levels of intricate detail seen in their temple carvings across Karnataka.

121. (C) Gupta

The Sarnath school of sculpture reached its zenith during the Gupta period, creating what is often considered the classical ideal of the Buddha image. These sculptures are characterized by a profound sense of serenity, with an introspective expression and downcast eyes. The use of thin, transparent drapery and idealized proportions emphasizes spiritual enlightenment over physical robustness. This style reflects the artistic refinement and religious depth of the Gupta era, establishing a benchmark for Buddhist art that influenced traditions throughout Asia.

122. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

Mauryan pillar capitals are magnificent examples of early Indian court art, traditionally carved as monolithic structures from single blocks of stone. However, the claim that they had no religious significance is incorrect. While these pillars were used to commemorate important events, they were primarily medium for propagating Emperor Ashoka's royal policy of Dhamma. Many were inscribed with edicts promoting moral and religious values, and several were placed at sacred Buddhist sites, reflecting their deep connection to the spiritual life of the time.

123. (D) A mouse or shrew

Ganesha, the elephant-headed god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles, is one of the most popular deities in Hindu iconography. He is traditionally depicted with a pot-belly, holding a modaka sweet, and having a single tusk. His sacred mount, or vahana, is a small mouse or shrew. This symbolic association represents the idea that wisdom can overcome even the most persistent obstacles, and that the divine presence can be found in even the humblest of creatures in the universe.

124. (B) A spiritual teacher who has conquered rebirth

In the Jain tradition, a Tirthankara is a supreme spiritual teacher who has achieved enlightenment and successfully crossed the ocean of rebirth. They serve as role models, teaching the path to liberation from the cycle of suffering. According to Jain cosmology, there are twenty-four Tirthankaras in each time cycle, with Mahavira being the last in the current one. Their lives and teachings form the core of Jain religious practice, and their images are the primary objects of veneration in Jain temples.

125. (A) I, II, and III only

Stupa architecture is defined by several essential symbolic and structural components. The primary element is the anda, a hemispherical dome representing the universe. On top of the dome sits the harmika, a square railing-like structure that symbolizes the abode of the gods. From the harmika rises a mast supporting tiered umbrellas known as chhatras, which represent royalty and spiritual sovereignty. Other features like gopurams and garbhagrihas belong to temple architecture and are not part of the traditional design of a Buddhist stupa.

126. (D) Slender figures in complex compositions

The sculptural art of the Satavahana period, particularly at the great stupa of Amaravati, is renowned for its unique stylistic elegance. Unlike the more robust and static figures of earlier traditions, the sculptures here feature slender, lithe bodies shown in dynamic and expressive poses. The relief panels are often characterized by crowded and complex narrative compositions that vividly depict various Jataka tales and scenes from the life of the Buddha. This style represents a significant high point of early artistic development in South India.

127. (A) Udayagiri and Khandagiri in Odisha

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The twin hills of Udayagiri and Khandagiri in Odisha are major sites for early Jain rock-cut architecture, dating back to the second century BCE. These caves were primarily intended as residential quarters for Jain monks and were patronized by King Kharavela. The caves feature interesting relief sculptures depicting various religious and secular scenes. Unlike the elaborate prayer halls of Buddhist chaityas, these caves are generally simple in design, reflecting the ascetic ideals of Jainism, and remain important monuments of India's religious and artistic heritage.

128. (B) The Nagara tower is curvilinear, while the Dravida tower is a stepped pyramid.

A fundamental difference between the North Indian Nagara and South Indian Dravida temple styles lies in the form of the main tower over the sanctum. In the Nagara style, the shikhara is characterized by a curvilinear profile that tapers towards the top, often crowned by an amalaka. In contrast, the Dravida style features a tower known as a vimana, which takes the form of a stepped pyramid with distinct horizontal tiers. These contrasting silhouettes are the most recognizable features that distinguish the two major traditions.

129. (B) It is one of the earliest structural temples in South India.

The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram is a landmark monument of Pallava architecture, built during the reign of King Rajasimha in the eighth century. Its significance lies in being one of the earliest surviving examples of free-standing structural temples in South India, marking a transition from rock-cut monuments like the Rathas. Built of granite blocks to withstand the sea air, the temple complex includes shrines for both Shiva and Vishnu, showcasing the early refinement of the Dravida style that would later reach its zenith.

130. (D) I, II, III, and IV

Terracotta art in ancient India was a versatile medium that reflected both folk and classical traditions. It was accessible to the common people because clay was an inexpensive and widely available material. While early Mauryan terracottas were primarily hand-modelled and archaic, the post-Mauryan period saw the introduction of moulds, which enabled mass production and greater detail. By the Gupta period, terracotta art reached a high level of sophistication, with large panels being used to decorate the exterior walls of grand brick temples.

131. (C) Rishabhdev

In Jain iconography, Rishabhdev, the first Tirthankara, is traditionally identified by the symbol of a bull. Each of the twenty-four Tirthankaras has a specific lanchhana, or emblem, which is typically carved at the base of their statues to help devotees identify the particular teacher. For Rishabhdev, the bull signifies his role as the pioneer who established the path of spiritual enlightenment. This symbolic system was essential because the physical depictions of Tirthankaras in meditative poses often appeared identical in Jain art.

132. (D) Jain religious themes

The rock-cut caves at Sittanavasal in Tamil Nadu are world-famous for their vibrant mural paintings that are deeply rooted in Jain religious themes. Dating primarily to the ninth century, these artworks depict scenes such as the Samavasarana, where a Tirthankara delivers his sermon to a celestial audience. The paintings are characterized by their graceful figures, vivid colors, and beautiful depictions of nature, including a famous lotus pond. They represent a major highlight of medieval South Indian painting and the artistic legacy of the Jain community.

133. (C) Classical and medieval Indian sculpture

The tribhanga pose, characterized by three bends in the body at the neck, waist, and knee, is a hallmark of classical and medieval Indian sculpture. This posture imparts a sense of grace, fluidity, and dynamic movement to the figures, making them appear more lifelike and sensuous. It was extensively used in the depiction of deities, celestial beings like apsaras, and human figures across various regional styles. This artistic convention reflects a sophisticated understanding of human anatomy and the desire to convey elegance in stone.

134. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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in the subsequent centuries, representing a major landmark in Indian architectural history.

148. (D) Ajivikas

The Lomas Rishi cave in the Barabar hills is a remarkable early example of rock-cut architecture from the Mauryan period. It was patronized by Emperor Ashoka for the use of the Ajivika sect, an ascetic philosophical tradition of the time. The cave is particularly famous for its elegantly carved facade, which features a detailed chaitya arch imitating contemporary wooden structures. This site demonstrates the advanced craftsmanship of the Mauryan period and the diverse religious patronage of its rulers, marking the beginning of the long tradition of Indian cave sanctuaries.

149. (C) Use of local red sandstone.

The art of the Mathura school, which flourished under the Kushanas, is distinctly different from the contemporary Gandhara school primarily due to its use of local materials and stylistic approach. While Gandhara artists used blue-grey schist and were heavily influenced by Hellenistic traditions, the Mathura artists utilized the local spotted red sandstone. This material allowed for the creation of robust and fleshy figures that were deeply rooted in indigenous Indian aesthetic traditions. Mathura art also served a wider religious range, producing icons for Buddhists, Jains, and Brahmanical followers alike.

150. (B) I, II, and III only

The temples at Khajuraho represent the zenith of the Nagara style under the patronage of the Chandela rulers. These structures are built on massive raised platforms called jagatis and are renowned for their intricate, layered sculptural ornamentation. The architectural plan seamlessly integrates the main sanctum with multiple mandapas. Unlike some Southern traditions, these complexes are not enclosed by fortified walls, and they primarily use sandstone rather than soft soapstone for their construction. These features collectively define the unique aesthetic and structural character of the Khajuraho temple group.

151. (D) Gupta period

During the Gupta period, terracotta art reached a high level of sophistication and was produced on a monumental scale. Large, life-sized figures and elaborate relief panels were created for the decoration of grand brick temples, such as those at Ahichchhatra and Bhitargaon. These works often depicted important deities like the river goddesses Ganga and Yamuna. This period demonstrates that terracotta was not merely a folk medium but a refined artistic tradition that complemented stone sculpture, reflecting the overall cultural and artistic flourishing often termed the 'Golden Age'.

152. (A) Harihara

Shakti iconography encompasses the various powerful and benevolent forms of the supreme female energy in the Hindu tradition. This includes Mahishasuramardini (Durga as the slayer of the buffalo demon), the Saptamatrikas (the seven mother goddesses), and Gajalakshmi (Lakshmi flanked by elephants). Each represents a different aspect of divine power and abundance. Harihara, however, is a composite iconographic representation that combines the features of Vishnu and Shiva into a single deity, symbolizing the unity of these two major male gods rather than a form of Shakti.

153. (C) Represents Buddhism, Brahmanism, and Jainism.

The rock-cut architecture at Ellora is truly exceptional because it reflects the remarkable religious diversity and cultural harmony of ancient India. Within a single basaltic hillside, there are thirty-four caves excavated for Buddhist, Brahmanical (Hindu), and Jain traditions. This coexistence of different faiths in one sacred location is unparalleled. The site includes monumental works such as the monolithic Kailasa temple and numerous viharas and shrines. This broad religious patronage between the sixth and tenth centuries makes Ellora one of the most significant artistic and historical sites in the world.

154. (A) The tower built over the sanctum sanctorum (Garbhagriha)

In the context of Dravida temple architecture, the vimana refers to the massive tower that rises directly above the sanctum sanctorum, or

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the broad patronage and cultural synthesis that characterized the region between the sixth and tenth centuries.

141. (C) The Bhakti movement and idol worship

The origin and development of structural temples in India were deeply influenced by the rise of the Bhakti movement and the practice of idol worship. As religious devotion shifted from complex Vedic fire sacrifices to a more personal and emotional relationship with a deity, there was a growing need for permanent structures to house the sacred icons. This led to the creation of the garbhagriha as the residence of the god. Over centuries, these simple shrines evolved into the elaborate and grand temple complexes that define the Indian landscape.

142. (D) A colossal Shiva Linga.

The Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur, a supreme achievement of Chola architecture, is dedicated to Lord Shiva. In the heart of the temple's sanctum sanctorum, or garbhagriha, sits a colossal Shiva Linga, which is one of the largest in India. This sacred icon, representing the formless and infinite nature of the divine, is the primary focus of worship and ritual in the temple. The massive scale of both the structure and the main deity reflects the imperial grandeur and religious devotion of the Chola monarch Rajaraja I.

143. (A) Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism

The art of the Pala dynasty, which flourished in the Bengal and Bihar regions, was deeply influenced by the religious developments of the time. While both Buddhist and Brahmanical themes were depicted, the school is particularly noted for its focus on Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism. The sculptures, masterfully carved in fine-grained black basalt, represent various Buddhas and an extensive pantheon of Bodhisattvas and other tantric deities. This artistic tradition served as a major source for the transmission of Buddhist imagery to Southeast Asia, Tibet, and East Asia.

144. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The bronze sculptures of the Chola period represent a pinnacle of artistic and technological achievement. These icons were created using the sophisticated lost-wax or cire-perdue casting process, which allowed for incredible detail and fluid forms. The most iconic creation, the Nataraja, is rich in symbolism, representing Shiva's cosmic dance that encompasses the continuous cycles of creation, preservation, and destruction of the universe. These bronzes were not just works of art but also sacred objects of worship that embodied profound philosophical concepts in a dynamic physical form.

145. (C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Regional architectural styles in India are identified by unique structural features and plans. In South Indian stupas, such as Amaravati, the presence of ayaka platforms and pillars is a distinctive element. Hoysala temples are famous for their star-shaped or stellate ground plans. In Odishan architecture, the main tower is known as a rekha deul. The Pallava period is renowned for its early experiments with temple forms, as seen in the monolithic Pancha Rathas at Mahabalipuram, which served as models for the subsequent Dravida style of architecture.

146. (A) Ganesha

Ganesha, the elephant-headed deity, occupies a unique and revered place in Hindu worship as the 'Remover of Obstacles' or Vighneshvara. He is traditionally the first deity to be invoked at the beginning of any new venture, ritual, or journey to ensure success and protection from difficulties. In iconography, he is depicted with a pot-belly, a single tusk, and often holding a modaka sweet. His image is placed at the entrance of temples and homes, symbolizing his role as a benevolent guardian and the bestower of wisdom.

147. (C) Introduction of a shikhara (spire) over the garbha-griha.

The Gupta period witnessed a significant evolution in temple architecture with the transition from simple flat-roofed structures to more elaborate forms. A key development seen in temples like the Dashavatara temple at Deogarh was the introduction of a shikhara, or spire, over the central sanctum sanctorum or garbhagriha. Although these early shikharas were relatively short and experimental, they marked the beginning of a vertical emphasis that would define both the Nagara and Dravida styles

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However, the Sudarshana Chakra is a specific attribute of Vishnu. Together, these features allow devotees to identify and meditate upon the various benevolent and fierce aspects of Shiva in Indian art.

106. (A) Hoysala sculpture

The Hoysala architectural style is uniquely distinguished by its use of soft soapstone, or chloritic schist, which allowed for unparalleled levels of sculptural detail. This material, which hardens upon exposure to the air, enabled medieval craftsmen to carve extremely intricate and delicate figures, jewelry, and decorative patterns. This resulted in the profuse ornamentation that covers nearly every surface of Hoysala temples, such as those at Belur and Halebidu. This extraordinary precision remains a hallmark of regional artistic achievement in South India.

107. (D) Buddhism

The rock-cut caves at Ajanta are exclusively dedicated to Buddhism and were created over several centuries in two distinct phases. These caves served as a major monastic center, containing both prayer halls and residential quarters for monks. The world-famous paintings and sculptures found here primarily depict Jataka tales and scenes from the life of the Buddha, alongside various celestial beings. Ajanta stands as a monumental record of the evolution of Buddhist art and religious practice in ancient India during the Hinayana and Mahayana periods.

108. (A) III, II, I, IV

The development of rock-cut architecture in India followed a clear chronological progression. The Lomas Rishi cave in the Barabar Hills represents the earliest phase under the Mauryas. This was followed by the early Buddhist caves at Ajanta during the Hinayana phase. Later, the tradition expanded to include Brahmanical and Jain shrines, as seen in the complex excavations at Ellora. Finally, the Pallavas developed unique monolithic rathas at Mahabalipuram in the seventh century, marking a significant transition towards the creation of structural temple forms.

109. (C) The circular terrace supporting the dome

In the architecture of a stupa, the medhi is the raised, circular terrace that serves as the base for the hemispherical dome, or anda. This platform provides structural support and often functions as an upper circumambulatory path for devotees. In some elaborate stupas, like the one at Sanchi, the medhi is accessed by stairs and is enclosed by a stone railing. This architectural component is essential for both the physical stability and the ritual use of the stupa as a sacred monument.

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110. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Chalukyas of Badami were pioneering architects who fostered a unique period of artistic experimentation. At major centers like Aihole and Pattadakal, they built temples that incorporated and blended features from both the North Indian Nagara and South Indian Dravida traditions. This diversity is evident even within a single complex, where temples of both styles stand side-by-side. This experimental approach highlights the Chalukyan rulers' role as cultural patrons who encouraged the synthesis of different regional architectural practices in the early medieval period.

111. (A) Rishabhdev

In the Jain religious tradition, Rishabhdev, also known as Adinath, is revered as the first of the twenty-four Tirthankaras. He is credited with establishing the foundational principles of Jainism and guiding humanity towards spiritual enlightenment. In iconography, he is uniquely identified by the symbol of a bull and is often depicted with long locks of hair falling over his shoulders. His life and teachings mark the beginning of the current era of spiritual awakening according to Jain cosmology and historical belief.

112. (B) Massive vimanas and elaborate gopurams

Chola temple architecture represents the zenith of the Dravida style, characterized by its monumental scale and grandeur. Key features include massive, soaring towers over the sanctum sanctorum known as vimanas, such as the one at the Brihadisvara temple in Thanjavur. Over time, the entrance gateways, or gopurams, also became increasingly elaborate and imposing. These structures, along with the extensive use

garbhagriha. This structure is typically shaped like a stepped pyramid, composed of multiple horizontal tiers that diminish in size as they ascend. The vimana is the most prominent feature of the main shrine and is often crowned by a dome-shaped element called a stupika. This vertical emphasis distinguishes the Dravida style from the North Indian Nagara style, where the corresponding tower is known as a shikhara.

155. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The early phase of Buddhist art, especially under the Shunga dynasty, was predominantly aniconic, meaning that the Buddha was never depicted in human form. This reflected a deep sense of reverence where his presence was instead indicated through a variety of symbols. These included the Bodhi tree signifying his enlightenment, footprints representing his physical presence on earth, or an empty throne. These symbols allowed devotees to meditate on his teachings and his attainment of Nirvana without the use of a literal figure, a tradition that changed during the later Kushana period.

156. (B) Propagating the royal policy of Dhamma

The polished stone pillars of the Mauryan period, topped with their magnificent capitals, served as a primary medium for Emperor Ashoka to communicate his royal policy of Dhamma. These pillars were strategically placed throughout the empire and often bore inscriptions of edicts promoting moral conduct, social responsibility, and religious tolerance. The choice of stone and the brilliant polish were intended to make these messages permanent and visible to all. Thus, these monuments were not merely artistic achievements but essential tools for statecraft and the propagation of ethical values.

157. (C) Hoysala

The sculptural art of the Hoysala dynasty is uniquely celebrated for its extraordinary level of detail and grace, particularly seen in the depiction of apsaras or madanikas. These figures, carved from soft soapstone at the Hoysalesvara temple in Halebidu, are shown in various expressive and sensuous poses, reflecting a high degree of artistic refinement. The material allowed for the creation of intricate jewelry, elaborate hairstyles, and delicate physical forms that became a hallmark of the Hoysala style. This mastery in stone carving represents a significant peak in the regional artistic tradition of Karnataka.

158. (A) II, IV, III, I

The development of Indian sculpture follows a clear chronological path through various major periods. The Didarganj Yakshi represents the monumental stone tradition of the Mauryan era. This was followed by the portrait sculptures of the Kushana period, such as the famous statue of King Kanishka. The Gupta period then reached a peak of classical refinement with works like the seated Buddha from Sarnath. Finally, the medieval period is celebrated for its masterful bronze casting, exemplified by the iconic Chola Nataraja. This sequence illustrates the maturation of artistic techniques and aesthetics over centuries.

159. (A) The Gupta period (Brahmanical)

The Udayagiri caves near Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh are a vital site for understanding the early development of Brahmanical art and architecture during the Gupta period. Excavated in the early fifth century, these rock-cut shrines are among the oldest surviving examples of Hindu religious art. They feature iconic relief sculptures, the most famous being the colossal Varaha (boar) avatar of Vishnu. These caves demonstrate how Puranic themes were given physical form through sophisticated rock-cut techniques, reflecting the growing importance of idol worship and royal patronage under the Gupta rulers.

160. (B) The sculptures were primarily made from soft soapstone.

Chola art is globally renowned for its exceptional achievements in both bronze casting and stone sculpture. The period reached its pinnacle with the creation of masterful bronze icons using the lost-wax technique, such as the famous Nataraja image. While the Cholas also produced magnificent stone reliefs on their grand granite temples, they did not primarily use soft soapstone. Instead, the use of soft soapstone or chloritic schist for extremely intricate and profuse carving is a defining characteristic of the contemporary but stylistically distinct Hoysala architecture of Karnataka.

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The Pala school of art, which flourished in the Bengal and Bihar regions under the patronage of the Pala dynasty, is renowned for its high-quality stone sculptures. These artworks are characterized by the use of fine-grained, lustrous black basalt stone, which allowed for extremely detailed and intricate carving. The sculptures, representing both Buddhist and Brahmanical deities, are noted for their high degree of polish, slender forms, and elaborate ornamentation. This distinctive style reached a high level of refinement and significantly influenced the artistic traditions of neighboring regions such as Nepal, Tibet, and Southeast Asia during the medieval period.

200. (A) A residential quarter for monks

In the context of Buddhist rock-cut architecture, the vihara served as a crucial space for the residential and communal needs of the monastic community. These monasteries typically consisted of a large central hall surrounded by small, individual cells where monks and nuns lived, studied, and meditated. While the chaitya was the dedicated hall for congregational prayer and worship, the vihara provided the essential infrastructure for daily life and spiritual discipline. Over time, some viharas also incorporated shrines with images of the Buddha, reflecting the evolving spiritual practices and the central role of these institutions in Buddhist society.

201. (C) The presence of 'ayaka' platforms with five pillars.

While stupas across India share a basic hemispherical dome structure, significant regional variations emerged over time. A key feature that distinguishes the stupas of South India, such as those at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda, from North Indian examples like Sanchi is the presence of ayaka platforms. These platforms project from the dome at each of the four cardinal directions and support five tall, slender pillars known as ayaka-stambhas. These pillars carry specific symbolic meaning, often related to important events in the Buddha's life, and are a unique hallmark of the regional Buddhist architectural tradition in the Andhra region.

202. (A) Udayagiri and Khandagiri caves in Odisha

The origin and early development of Jain rock-cut architecture are best exemplified by the twin hills of Udayagiri and Khandagiri in Odisha. Dating back to the second century BCE, these caves were primarily intended as residential quarters for Jain monks and were patronized by King Kharavela. Unlike the elaborate prayer halls of Buddhist chaityas, these caves are generally simple and austere, reflecting the ascetic ideals of Jainism. They feature interesting relief sculptures depicting various religious and secular scenes, providing valuable insights into early Jain artistic traditions and the history of patronage in ancient Eastern India.

203. (D) Rajasimha (Narasimhavarman II)

The magnificent Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram is a landmark structural temple built under the patronage of the Pallava ruler Rajasimha, also known as Narasimhavarman II, in the early eighth century. This temple is a quintessential example of the early Dravida style, featuring a massive pyramidal vimana and a complex layout with numerous subsidiary shrines. Its design significantly influenced the subsequent development of South Indian temple architecture, including the famous Virupaksha temple at Pattadakal. The temple is renowned for its exquisite sculptures and its role as a major center of religious and cultural life during the Pallava period.

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204. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Kushana period was a crucial era for the development of Indian art, witnessing the simultaneous rise of the Gandhara and Mathura schools. These two traditions developed in different regions and catered to different needs. The Gandhara school, located in the northwestern frontier, primarily focused on Buddhist imagery and incorporated significant Hellenistic and Roman influences. In contrast, the Mathura school, situated in the heart of North India, produced icons for a more diverse clientele, including Buddhists, Jains, and followers of early Brahmanism. Together, these schools established the foundational icons and styles that shaped the future of religious art throughout the Indian subcontinent.

205. (C) Bronze icons

of the male and female principles necessary for cosmic balance. Other standard pairings include Vishnu with Lakshmi and Brahma with Saraswati. These divine couples are a central theme in Indian religious art, reflecting the deep-seated belief in the interdependence of the masculine and feminine aspects of the divine.

168. (A) Mauryan period

The origin of rock-cut architecture in India can be traced back to the Mauryan period in the third century BCE. Under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha, caves were first excavated from solid rock in the Barabar and Nagarjuni hills. These early structures, like the Lomas Rishi cave, were intended as retreats for ascetic sects like the Ajivikas. This revolutionary technique of carving permanent sanctuaries out of living rock laid the foundation for the subsequent centuries of magnificent Buddhist, Brahmanical, and Jain cave temples across the Indian subcontinent.

169. (C) A Nagara variation featuring a shikhara of miniature spires.

The Bhumija architectural style is a sophisticated regional sub-style of the North Indian Nagara tradition. It flourished primarily in the Malwa region under the Paramaras and is best identified by the unique design of its shikhara. The main tower is decorated with rows of miniature shrine-like motifs, or urushringas, arranged in precise vertical and horizontal bands. This creates a complex, textured, and mathematically precise appearance on the spire. It represents a high degree of architectural refinement and a unique aesthetic development within the broader medieval Nagara temple-building tradition.

170. (A) Creation of the monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora

The Rashtrakuta dynasty's most spectacular and enduring contribution to Indian art and architecture is the rock-cut Kailasa temple at Ellora. Commissioned by King Krishna I in the eighth century, this colossal monolithic structure was carved from the top down out of a single piece of solid rock. It replicates the form of a grand structural temple on a monumental scale, complete with elaborate relief sculptures and shrines. This achievement remains one of the greatest examples of human engineering and artistic devotion, showcasing the power and vision of the Rashtrakuta rulers.

171. (D) Anthropomorphic images of the Buddha

The sculptural decorations on the gateways, or toranas, of the Sanchi stupa reflect the early phase of Buddhist art, which was primarily aniconic. While these carvings vividly depict Jataka tales, scenes of worship, and important events from the Buddha's life, the Buddha himself is never shown in human form. Instead, his presence is indicated through symbols such as the Bodhi tree, an empty throne, or footprints. Anthropomorphic images of the Buddha only began to appear later, during the Kushana period, marking a significant transition in the history of Buddhist iconography.

172. (B) An amalaka and a kalasha

The shikhara, or the soaring spire of a Nagara style temple, is typically topped by a specific set of decorative and symbolic elements. The most prominent is the amalaka, a large, notched stone disc that resembles a fruit or a wheel and symbolizes the cosmic axis. Above the amalaka sits the kalasha, a pitcher-shaped finial that represents prosperity and divine abundance. Together, these elements crown the vertical ascent of the temple, marking the point where the earthly structure meets the celestial realm in North Indian temple architectural traditions.

173. (C) Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer

The famous Trimurti sculpture in the Elephanta caves is a monumental masterpiece of Indian rock-cut art that represents the three essential aspects of Lord Shiva. The colossal triple-headed bust depicts Shiva in his roles as the creator (Sadyojata or Vamadeva), the preserver (Tatpurusha), and the destroyer (Aghora). Each face exhibits a distinct expression reflecting these cosmic functions, ranging from serenity and beauty to fierce intensity. This powerful image captures the totality of the divine presence and remains one of the most iconic representations of Shiva's multifaceted nature in the Hindu tradition.

174. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Terracotta was not merely a minor art form but was significantly used for architectural decoration,

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161. (B) Dravida

The gopuram is a prominent and defining architectural feature of the South Indian Dravida style of temple architecture. These are massive, towering entrance gateways that provide access to the temple complex. Over time, gopurams became increasingly grand and elaborate, often surpassing the height of the main shrine's tower, or vimana. They are typically decorated with numerous sculptural figures depicting deities and mythological scenes. The presence of these imposing gateways, along with high boundary walls and temple tanks, characterizes the majestic scale of large Southern Indian temple complexes.

162. (A) Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism

The iconographic representation of Tara as a powerful and compassionate female Bodhisattva gained significant prominence with the development of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism. Often considered the female counterpart to Avalokiteshvara, Tara is revered as a protector who helps practitioners overcome both physical and spiritual obstacles. Her worship expanded as the Buddhist pantheon grew more complex, incorporating various forms and colors of the deity, each with specific attributes. This evolution reflected a greater emphasis on the feminine principle and the role of mercy in attaining enlightenment within these later Buddhist traditions.

163. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

While the basic form of the stupa remained constant, regional variations emerged between North and South India. The structural stupas of the North, such as Sanchi, are famous for their monumental stone railings and four elaborately carved gateways or toranas at the cardinal points. In contrast, the stupas of the South, like Amaravati, developed a unique feature known as an ayaka platform. These platforms projected from the dome at each cardinal direction and supported five tall ayaka pillars, which carried specific symbolic significance in the regional Buddhist tradition.

164. (D) Satavahana period at Amaravati

The art of the Satavahana period, centered at sites like Amaravati, is distinguished by its unique material and stylistic elegance. Artists used a local white-greenish limestone, often called Palnad marble, which allowed for extremely fine and delicate carving. The sculptures are characterized by slender, lithe figures depicted in dynamic and crowded narrative compositions. This style conveys a sense of movement and emotional depth, differing from the more robust or serene figures of other contemporary traditions. It represents a significant high point in the early development of artistic expression in South India.

165. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

India's major temples are recognized by their unique structural and conceptual features. The Sun Temple at Konark is designed as a colossal stone chariot. The Hoysaleswara temple is famous for its star-shaped plan and intricate soapstone carvings. The Kailasa temple at Ellora is a monumental monolithic structure carved from a single rock hillside. The Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur is renowned for its massive vimana crowned by a monolithic dome. These diverse architectural achievements reflect the creativity and religious devotion of the various dynasties that patronized them across the centuries.

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166. (B) The use of transparent drapery that reveals the form.

A defining feature of the Gupta sculptures from the Sarnath school is the high level of artistic refinement and spiritual idealism. These images are characterized by a serene and introspective expression, but technically, they are most notable for the use of thin, transparent drapery. This wet look allows the underlying form of the body to be seen, emphasizing the physical perfection of the Buddha while maintaining a sense of divine grace. This approach contrasts with the heavy, realistic folds of drapery found in the earlier Gandhara school, representing a purely indigenous classical style.

167. (D) Shiva - Parvati

In Hindu iconography, major deities are often depicted with their consorts, who represent their active energy or Shakti. Shiva is traditionally paired with Parvati, who embodies various forms ranging from the benevolent mother to the fierce protector. This partnership symbolizes the union

circumambulation, or pradakshina, became an integral part of Buddhist worship at these sites. While early stupas were often made of brick and wood, the transition to elaborately carved stone was a gradual process that reached its peak in the Shunga and Satavahana periods.

181. (C) Mathura School

The Mathura school of art is renowned for its diverse subject matter and its role in developing indigenous religious iconography during the Kushana period. Using the local spotted red sandstone, Mathura artists produced a vast number of images for all three major traditions: Buddhism, Jainism, and Brahmanism. They are credited with creating some of the earliest anthropomorphic images of the Buddha and the Jain Tirthankaras, as well as various Hindu deities. The robust and fleshy style of these sculptures, deeply rooted in folk traditions, had a profound influence on the later development of Indian art.

182. (B) Crocodile (Makara)

In Hindu iconography, the river goddesses Ganga and Yamuna are often depicted as guardians at the entrance of temples. Ganga is uniquely identified by her sacred mount, or vahana, which is the makara—a mythical sea creature often resembling a crocodile or a dolphin. This symbolic association emphasizes her connection to the life-giving waters of the river. Similarly, Yamuna is depicted on a tortoise. These goddesses were frequently represented in Gupta and medieval sculpture, serving both a decorative and a protective function as they marked the transition into the sacred space of the shrine.

183. (D) The later Mahayana phase

The mural paintings in Ajanta Cave No. 1, including the famous and serene figures of the Padmapani and Vajrapani Bodhisattvas, belong to the later phase of artistic activity at the site, dating to the fifth and sixth centuries. This period is associated with Mahayana Buddhism, where the depiction of various Bodhisattvas as compassionate beings became central to religious practice. These paintings represent the peak of classical Indian art, characterized by their sophisticated use of color, fluid lines, and spiritual depth. They stand as enduring masterpieces that reflect the refined aesthetic and religious vibrancy of the Vakataka and Gupta eras.

184. (A) Nagara

The amalaka is a distinctive and essential architectural element of the North Indian Nagara temple style. It is a large, notched stone disc that crowns the summit of the curvilinear spire, or shikhara. Symbolizing a sacred fruit or the sun, the amalaka represents the cosmic axis and serves as a base for the final pitcher-shaped finial known as the kalasha. This feature is a key visual identifier for Nagara temples, distinguishing them from the South Indian Dravida style, which uses a different dome-shaped crowning element known as a stupika or shikhara.

185. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Hoysala temples are celebrated worldwide for their extraordinary and profuse sculptural ornamentation, which covers nearly every inch of the exterior walls. This remarkable artistic achievement was made possible by the use of soft chloritic schist, commonly known as soapstone, as the primary building material. This stone is relatively soft when quarried, allowing craftsmen to carve with extreme precision and create incredibly intricate details in jewelry, drapery, and physical forms. Once exposed to the air, the stone hardens, preserving the delicate and sophisticated carvings for centuries as a testament to the mastery of the Hoysala artisans.

186. (A) A lustrous, high polish known as Mauryan polish

A defining characteristic of Mauryan stone architecture and sculpture is the extraordinary, glass-like luster known as Mauryan polish. This brilliant finish was achieved through a sophisticated and labor-intensive process of grinding and polishing the stone, most commonly Chunar sandstone. This high level of craftsmanship was applied to the monolithic pillars and animal capitals commissioned by Emperor Ashoka, as well as to some early rock-cut caves. The polish was so advanced that it has survived for over two thousand years, remaining one of the most recognizable hallmarks of the imperial court art of the Mauryan period.

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187. (D) A narrative style, depicting stories in low relief.

The sculptural art of the Shunga period, most famously seen at the railings and gateways of Bharhut and Sanchi, is primarily characterized by its narrative character. Unlike the monumental court art of the Mauryas, Shunga artists focused on telling complex stories in low relief. These carvings vividly depict various Jataka tales, events from the life of the Buddha, and scenes of everyday life and nature spirits. This narrative style, which often uses continuous narration where the same figure appears multiple times in a single panel, represents a significant development in the visual communication of religious stories in ancient India.

188. (B) Brihadisvara Temple - Mahabalipuram

Identifying the correct location of major architectural monuments is essential for understanding regional history. The Kandariya Mahadeva temple is located at Khajuraho, while the Lingaraja temple is in Bhubaneswar. The Virupaksha temple is a landmark of Pattadakal. However, the Brihadisvara temple is not in Mahabalipuram but is situated in Thanjavur, where it was built as a supreme masterpiece of Chola architecture. Mahabalipuram is instead famous for Pallava monuments like the Shore Temple and the monolithic Rathas. Correcting such pairs helps in mapping the distinct artistic legacies of different dynasties across the Indian subcontinent.

189. (C) Jain painting

The rock-cut caves at Sittanavasal in Tamil Nadu are an invaluable source for the study of ancient Jain painting. Dating primarily to the ninth century, the site contains exceptional mural paintings that depict central themes of the Jain tradition, such as the Samavasarana or the celestial audience hall of a Tirthankara. The vibrant colors and graceful figures, including the famous lotus pond scene, demonstrate the high level of artistic skill and religious devotion within the medieval Jain community. These paintings are among the few surviving examples that illustrate the rich and sophisticated mural tradition of Jainism in South India.

190. (C) A is true but R is false.

The Gupta period indeed witnessed the significant beginning of free-standing structural Hindu temples, such as those at Deogarh and Sanchi. This era marked a major transition from rock-cut shrines to independent stone buildings. However, the reason provided is incorrect. The Gupta rulers were generally known for their religious tolerance and broad patronage. While they were devout followers of Brahmanism, they also supported Buddhist and Jain institutions. This pluralistic environment fostered the development of artistic and architectural traditions across all major religions, rather than the suppression of any particular faith, reflecting the cultural flourishing of the period.

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191. (A) Hoysala

The star-shaped or stellate ground plan is a unique and defining feature of Hoysala temple architecture, which flourished in Karnataka during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. This complex plan was achieved by rotating a square around its center, creating numerous projections and recesses on the exterior walls. This design provided a vast surface area for the profuse and intricate sculptural ornamentation that is a hallmark of the style. Combined with the use of soft soapstone, the stellate plan allowed Hoysala architects to create temples with a highly textured and visually dynamic appearance that differs from any other regional tradition.

192. (B) It evolved from hand-modelled to mould-made sophisticated objects.

Terracotta art in ancient India underwent a significant stylistic and technical evolution from the Mauryan to the Gupta periods. The early Mauryan terracottas were predominantly hand-modelled and possessed a robust, archaic quality. In the subsequent Shunga and Kushana periods, the introduction of moulds revolutionized the craft, allowing for more detailed, refined, and mass-produced figurines and plaques. By the Gupta era, this technique was used to create large, sophisticated panels for architectural decoration. This transition from individual hand-modeling to sophisticated mould-based production reflects the growing artistic maturity and the diverse applications of the medium in both religious and secular contexts.

193. (B) A canopy of serpent hoods

Parshvanath, the twenty-third Tirthankara of Jainism, is consistently and uniquely identified in iconography by a protective canopy of multiple serpent hoods over his head. This distinctive feature commemorates the legend of the serpent king Dharanendra, who protected Parshvanath from a fierce storm while he was deep in meditation. This attribute is essential for distinguishing him from other Tirthankaras who are often depicted in identical meditative postures. The canopy of serpent hoods, usually numbering seven, became a standardized symbol in Jain art, allowing devotees to recognize and honor this specific spiritual teacher across various sculptures and paintings.

194. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The Khajuraho group of temples was indeed built by the Chandela dynasty between the tenth and eleventh centuries, representing a major highlight of medieval Indian culture. However, these temples are not examples of the Dravida style. Instead, they are quintessential masterpieces of the North Indian Nagara style of architecture. They are characterized by soaring curvilinear shikharas, high raised platforms called jagatis, and an integrated plan of the sanctum and assembly halls. The confusion between styles can be resolved by recognizing these specific structural features that define the Northern tradition, as opposed to the pyramidal vimanas of the South.

195. (A) I, II, and V only

The Dravida style of temple architecture, prevalent in South India, is distinguished by several specific features. Key among these are the vimana, which is the stepped pyramidal tower over the sanctum, and the gopuram, the massive and elaborate entrance gateway. Additionally, Dravida temple complexes are typically enclosed by high compound walls and frequently include a large temple tank or kalyani. Features like the curvilinear shikhara and the notched amalaka disc are instead defining characteristics of the North Indian Nagara style. Understanding these structural differences is essential for identifying the regional architectural traditions of the Indian subcontinent.

196. (D) Gupta period (Sarnath school)

The famous sculpture of the Buddha delivering his first sermon in the deer park at Sarnath is a supreme masterpiece of the Gupta period Sarnath school. This image captures the essence of spiritual enlightenment through its idealized proportions, serene expression, and downcast eyes. A hallmark of this style is the thin, transparent drapery that reveals the form of the body, and the beautifully carved halo with floral and geometric motifs. This iconic representation, showing the Buddha in the Dharmachakra mudra, established a classical ideal that significantly influenced Buddhist art across Asia for many centuries.

197. (C) Pattadakal

Pallava architecture is renowned for its pioneering rock-cut and early structural monuments at sites like Kanchipuram, Mahabalipuram, and Mandagapattu. These locations showcase the evolution of the Dravida style from simple cave shrines to sophisticated monolithic rathas and structural temples. Pattadakal, however, is not a Pallava site. It is instead a major center of the Early Chalukyan dynasty in Karnataka. Pattadakal is famous for its unique collection of temples that demonstrate both Nagara and Dravida styles existing side-by-side, reflecting the Chalukyan rulers' experimental and inclusive approach to religious architecture in the seventh and eighth centuries.

198. (B) Colossal chariot

The Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha is a spectacular architectural achievement designed in the form of a colossal stone chariot for the Sun God, Surya. Built in the thirteenth century, the temple is situated on a high platform decorated with twenty-four giant, intricately carved wheels. It is symbolically shown as being pulled by seven powerful horses, which represent the seven days of the week or the colors of light. This grand and unique conceptualization reflects the deep religious devotion and the sophisticated engineering skills of the medieval Odishan builders, making it one of the most iconic monuments in India.

199. (D) Lustrous black basalt

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The sculptural art of the Chandela period, as seen in the magnificent temples of Khajuraho, is characterized by a high degree of refinement and dynamic elegance. The figures, whether depicting deities, celestial beings, or human figures in various activities, are typically shown with elongated bodies and graceful postures. The artists successfully captured a sense of movement and fluidity in stone, making the temple walls appear lively and vibrant. The detailed rendering of jewelry, hairstyles, and expressive features demonstrates the exceptional skill of the medieval artisans in conveying both physical beauty and emotional depth through their sophisticated and elegant artistic style.

212. (D) A being who postpones nirvana to help others.

In Buddhist art and philosophy, a Bodhisattva is a central figure representing supreme compassion and the ideal of spiritual service. A Bodhisattva is a being who has attained a high level of spiritual realization and is capable of reaching Nirvana but chooses to delay this final liberation. This postponement is motivated by the desire to remain in the cycle of existence to help all other sentient beings overcome suffering and achieve enlightenment. This concept led to the widespread depiction of merciful figures like Avalokiteshvara and Tara in Mahayana and Vajrayana art, reflecting a major shift in the religious focus of the Buddhist tradition.

213. (C) Are seen as prototypes for later Dravida style temples.

The rock-cut rathas at Mahabalipuram are of immense significance in Indian architectural history because they served as experimental models or prototypes for the subsequent development of the structural Dravida style. Carved from single granite boulders during the seventh century under the Pallavas, these monolithic shrines showcase various temple forms and roof designs. Although they were never consecrated for regular worship, they provided the architectural blueprint for the stepped pyramidal vimanas that became a hallmark of South Indian temples. By carving these diverse forms in permanent stone, the Pallava builders successfully transitioned architectural ideas from perishable wooden structures to long-lasting stone monuments.

214. (B) Mauryan art exclusively depicted Buddhist themes and symbols.

While the Mauryan period is famous for its association with Buddhism under Emperor Ashoka, it is incorrect to say that Mauryan art was exclusively dedicated to Buddhist themes. The period's artistic output was diverse and included significant secular and folk elements. For instance, the monumental stone pillars and animal capitals served as tools for statecraft and the propagation of royal policy. Furthermore, the numerous Yaksha and Yakshi figures from this era represent an indigenous folk tradition related to nature spirits and fertility, which predates and existed alongside formal religious iconography. This demonstrates that Mauryan art was a multifaceted tradition reflecting both royal and popular cultural values.

215. (A) I, II, and III only

The sculptural art of the Satavahana period, particularly at the major Buddhist center of Amaravati, is defined by its unique material and stylistic brilliance. Artists used a local white-greenish limestone, often called Palnad marble, which allowed for extremely fine and detailed carving. The style is characterized by a preference for crowded and dynamic narrative panels that vividly depict various religious and secular scenes. The figures are typically slender and lithe, shown in expressive and fluid poses that convey a sense of movement. This tradition represents a significant high point of artistic achievement in early South India, differing from the more robust styles found in other contemporary regions.

216. (A) The main shrine is surrounded by four smaller subsidiary shrines

The panchayatana style is a classic architectural plan in Indian temple building that became prominent during the Gupta and medieval periods. In this arrangement, the primary shrine housing the main deity is placed at the center of a large raised platform. It is then accompanied by four smaller, subsidiary shrines located at each of the corners of the same platform. This five-temple configuration, seen in landmarks like the Dashavatara temple at Deogarh and several

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The lost-wax or cire perdue process is an ancient and sophisticated metal casting technique that reached its pinnacle during the Chola period. It was used primarily for creating magnificent bronze icons, such as the famous Nataraja image. The process involves creating a detailed wax model, encasing it in a clay mold, and then replacing the melted wax with molten bronze. This method allowed for extraordinary fluidity of form and intricate detail, enabling Chola artists to capture the dynamic energy and spiritual depth of their deities. These bronzes remain some of the most celebrated achievements in the history of global art.

206. (D) He is shown reclining on the serpent Shesha, known as Sheshashayana.

In Hindu iconography, the god Vishnu is often depicted in various forms that represent his roles as the preserver and protector of the universe. One of his most iconic and serene representations is the Sheshashayana pose, where he is shown reclining on the coils of the thousand-headed serpent Shesha, floating in the cosmic ocean. This scene often depicts the creation of the universe, with a lotus emerging from his navel carrying the god Brahma. This powerful image symbolizes Vishnu's role in maintaining cosmic order and is a central theme in Indian religious art from the Gupta period onwards.

207. (A) Brahma

In the context of Brahmanical iconography, Brahma is recognized as the god of creation and one of the three principal deities of the Hindu trinity. He is typically depicted with four heads facing the cardinal directions, symbolizing the four Vedas or his all-encompassing knowledge. Other standard attributes include a water pot, a rosary, and the Vedas themselves. While he is a central figure in mythology, Brahma is worshipped less frequently in temples compared to Vishnu and Shiva. His iconographic features were carefully developed to reflect his peaceful, creative, and scholarly nature within the broader religious and artistic traditions of ancient India.

208. (A) II, IV, I, III

The development of Indian sculpture can be traced through a clear chronological progression of major works. The Rampurva bull capital represents the monumental stone tradition of the Mauryan era in the third century BCE. This was followed by the iconic images of the Kushana period, such as the standing Buddha from Mathura. Later, the post-Gupta period saw the creation of monumental rock-cut reliefs like the Trimurti at Elephanta. Finally, the medieval period is celebrated for the highly refined and often erotic sculptures of the Khajuraho temples. This sequence illustrates the evolving aesthetics and techniques of Indian artists over more than a millennium.

209. (B) Ajanta, though featuring a more secular character.

The mural paintings in the Bagh caves are contemporary to the later phase of Ajanta and share many of the same artistic techniques and stylistic features. Both represent the high point of classical Indian painting during the Gupta and post-Gupta periods. However, the Bagh murals are distinct for their predominantly secular and humanistic character. While Ajanta focuses heavily on Jataka tales and religious narratives, the paintings at Bagh vividly depict scenes of courtly life, music, and dance. This makes them thematically closer to the everyday world of the time, providing a valuable contrast to the more strictly religious artwork found at other Buddhist sites.

210. (A) Vesara

The Vesara style of architecture is a hybrid tradition that flourished in the Deccan region under the patronage of the Chalukyas of Kalyani and the Hoysalas. It artistically combines features of the North Indian Nagara style and the South Indian Dravida style. A defining characteristic is the combination of a Dravida-style ground plan with a superstructure or shikhara that incorporates Nagara-style profiles and decorative motifs. This synthesis resulted in a unique architectural aesthetic that bridged the major regional traditions of the subcontinent. The Hoysalas further developed this style with their star-shaped plans and extremely intricate soapstone carvings, marking a peak in regional artistic achievement.

211. (C) Graceful and elongated figures with a sense of movement.

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particularly during the Gupta period. The brick temple at Bhitargaon is a landmark example, where large terracotta panels were used to adorn the exterior walls with various mythological and religious scenes. This demonstrates that terracotta was a sophisticated medium used alongside stone to enhance grand religious structures. The use of these detailed panels allowed for rich ornamentation in regions where stone was scarce, showcasing the adaptability and skill of ancient Indian artists and builders.

175. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Major Indian dynasties are associated with specific architectural milestones. The Pallavas pioneered South Indian temple forms with their monolithic Rathas at Mahabalipuram. The Cholas subsequently reached the peak of the Dravida style with the massive Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur. The Chandelas in North India created the elaborate Nagara temple complex at Khajuraho. Meanwhile, the Chalukyas of Badami were known for their experimental approach, building diverse temples at sites like Aihole and Pattadakal. Together, these contributions reflect the rich and varied architectural heritage of ancient and medieval India.

176. (B) Religious beliefs, artistic skills, and technology.

Architecture is considered a significant source of history because physical structures provide tangible and durable evidence of the past. Beyond being just buildings, they reflect the religious beliefs and spiritual aspirations of the societies that created them. They also showcase the artistic skills, aesthetic values, and technological advancements of their time, such as engineering techniques and material usage. By studying architectural remains, historians can gain a deeper understanding of cultural synthesis, state patronage, and the daily lives of ancient people, making architecture an indispensable tool for historical reconstruction.

177. (B) Mahendra style and Narasimhavarman style

The rock-cut architecture of the Pallavas is traditionally divided into two distinct phases associated with their great rulers. The earlier Mahendra style, named after Mahendravarman I, is characterized by simple pillared halls or mandapas. This was followed by the more advanced Narasimhavarman style, which introduced the revolutionary monolithic rathas or free-standing shrines carved from single boulders. These two phases demonstrate the rapid evolution of architectural forms and sculptural techniques in South India, laying the foundation for the subsequent development of the structural Dravida temple style under later Pallava kings.

178. (A) It is a hybrid style, combining Nagara and Dravida styles.

The Vesara style is best described as a creative hybrid tradition that emerged in the Deccan region, particularly under the patronage of the Chalukyas and Hoysalas. It artistically blends features of both the North Indian Nagara and South Indian Dravida styles. A typical Vesara temple may follow the ground plan of a Dravida temple but feature a superstructure or shikhara that incorporates Nagara-style motifs and profiles. This stylistic synthesis reflects the cultural crossroads of the Deccan and represents a unique architectural achievement that bridged the major regional traditions of the subcontinent.

179. (C) Vishnu

The Dashavatara temple at Deogarh is a quintessential example of early structural temple architecture from the Gupta period and is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. As its name suggests, the temple celebrates the various avatars or incarnations of Vishnu, which are depicted in exquisite relief panels on the exterior walls. These panels include famous scenes like Sheshashayana Vishnu, reclining on the serpent Shesha. The temple's focus on Vaishnava themes and its foundational architectural features make it one of the most important monuments for studying the development of Hindu temple worship in ancient North India.

180. (A) I, II, III, and V only

The development of the stupa involves several key historical and architectural elements. Originating as a simple burial mound for relics, it was transformed into a major religious monument under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka. The standard design includes the anda, harmika, and chhatra, each carrying deep symbolic meaning. Furthermore, the ritual of

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temples at Khajuraho, symbolizes a divine and cosmic order. This layout represents a significant step in the evolution of temple complexes from simple single-cell shrines to more elaborate and symbolic structures.

217. (C) Chaitya halls and Viharas

The rock-cut caves at Ajanta are primarily classified into two distinct architectural types that served the essential needs of the Buddhist monastic community. Chaitya halls were dedicated congregational spaces designed for prayer and worship, typically featuring a stupa at one end. Viharas, on the other hand, were monasteries that provided residential quarters for the monks. These usually consisted of a central hall surrounded by small individual sleeping cells. Together, these two types of structures allowed Ajanta to function as a major center for religious study, meditation, and communal life over several centuries during both the Hinayana and Mahayana phases.

218. (A) Wearing high boots, a feature of Central Asian influence

The iconography of the Sun God, Surya, in Indian art possesses a unique feature that reflects historical cultural exchanges. He is often depicted wearing high boots, which is an unusual attribute for traditional Indian deities who are typically shown barefoot. This stylistic detail is widely interpreted as a clear influence from Central Asian traditions, specifically those of the Kushana period. Surya is also traditionally shown riding a chariot drawn by seven horses, but the presence of the boots remains a distinctive hallmark of his representation in North Indian sculpture, showcasing how diverse artistic influences were integrated into the development of Indian religious iconography.

219. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The Bhumija style is a specialized and highly refined sub-tradition of the North Indian Nagara architectural tradition. Its most distinctive feature is the shikhara, which is decorated with miniature shrine-like motifs arranged in precise vertical and horizontal rows flanking a central latā or spine. This creates a textured and mathematically balanced appearance on the spire. However, the claim that it is a prominent feature of Pallava architecture is incorrect. The Pallavas were pioneers of the South Indian Dravida style, which uses a completely different pyramidal tower form known as a vimana. The Bhumija style reached its zenith under the Paramaras in Central India.

220. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4

Jain and Buddhist iconography employs specific symbols to identify various spiritual teachers and deities. In the Jain tradition, each Tirthankara is associated with a unique emblem known as a lanchhana. Rishabhdev, the first Tirthankara, is identified by a bull, while Parshvanath is uniquely recognized by a protective serpent canopy. Mahavira, the twenty-fourth Tirthankara, is associated with a lion. In early Buddhist art, the Buddha himself was represented through symbols such as the Bodhi tree under which he attained enlightenment. These symbolic systems were essential for the correct identification and veneration of spiritual figures across diverse artistic traditions in ancient India.

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221. (C) The technique of using moulds was introduced.

The period between the Mauryan and Gupta eras was a pivotal time for the development of terracotta art in India, primarily due to the introduction of the mould technique. Before this, terracottas were largely hand-modelled, resulting in a more archaic and individual appearance. The use of moulds allowed for the mass production of figurines and plaques with a high degree of consistency, detail, and sophistication. This technical advancement enabled terracotta to become a popular and widely accessible medium for both religious and secular purposes. It paved the way for the elaborate terracotta ornamentation seen in later brick temples, reflecting the growing maturity of ancient Indian craftsmanship.

222. (D) Exquisite bronze sculptures, especially the Nataraja

While the Chola dynasty is famous for its grand granite temples, their most celebrated and internationally recognized contribution to the world of art is their masterful bronze sculpture. Using the sophisticated lost-wax or cire perdue casting technique, Chola artists created icons of unparalleled grace and spiritual depth. The most

known as the deul. In front of this sanctuary sits a separate, flat-roofed assembly hall called the jagamohana. This specific combination of the main tower and the attached hall defines the unique profile of Odishan architecture.

273. (D) The Cholas

Under the patronage of the Chola dynasty, South Indian temple architecture reached a monumental scale and high level of refinement. They perfected the Dravida style, constructing massive vimanas and expansive temple complexes. These sites became more than just religious spaces; they functioned as central hubs for social and cultural life, showcasing the dynasty's power and dedication to grand architectural expression.

274. (A) The Dravida style under the Cholas.

Large and elaborately decorated gateways, known as gopurams, are a hallmark of the mature Dravida style. These structures are prominent features in Chola temple complexes, marking the entrances to vast walled enclosures. The gopurams grew in size and complexity over time, eventually becoming some of the most visible and iconic elements of South Indian religious architecture during this period.

275. (C) A high platform known as a jagati.

The architectural design of the Khajuraho temples includes a distinctive elevated base. These structures are built upon a high platform referred to as a jagati. This platform serves to raise the entire temple above the surrounding ground level, creating a sense of grandeur and separating the sacred building from the profane world, while also providing a space for circumambulation.

276. (A) High polish and naturalistic modeling.

Artistic production during the Mauryan period is noted for its exceptional craftsmanship and technical precision. Pillar capitals from this era, such as the famous lion capital from Sarnath, are distinguished by a very high level of surface polish. Furthermore, the depictions of animals exhibit naturalistic modeling, indicating a sophisticated understanding of form and anatomy by the royal court's artisans.

277. (D) Representations of powerful folk deities.

The early phase of Indian sculpture includes large, freestanding figures of Yakshas and Yakshis. These images are understood as depictions of significant folk deities that were being integrated into the broader artistic and religious mainstream. Although they often exhibit a rigid or archaic posture, they represent a vital connection between indigenous popular beliefs and the developing traditions of stone sculpture.

278. (B) Vivid depiction of narrative tales.

Sculptural art under the Shungas and Satavahanas focused heavily on storytelling through narrative reliefs. Found primarily on the railings and gateways of stupas like Sanchi and Bharhut, these carvings detail Jataka stories and various events from the Buddha's life. The emphasis was on clear, vivid depictions that could communicate complex religious lessons and biographies to the viewing public.

279. (C) Open-air galleries of didactic stories.

During the Shunga and Satavahana periods, stupas served a significant educational and artistic purpose. The extensive use of relief sculpture on the stone enclosures and gateways turned these religious structures into open-air galleries. By carving instructional stories and Jataka tales in stone, artisans created a visual medium that allowed devotees to engage with and learn Buddhist teachings while visiting the sites.

280. (D) Monumental imperial art to smaller, narrative reliefs.

The early history of Indian sculpture shows a transition in focus and scale. Following the monumental and highly polished imperial art of the Mauryas, the tradition shifted towards more detailed and narrative-driven works. During the Shunga and Satavahana eras, artisans prioritized smaller-scale relief carvings on railings and gateways, focusing on storytelling and religious instruction rather than massive single-stone imperial monuments.

281. (A) The Gandhara school

The Gandhara school emerged in the northwestern regions where diverse cultural influences met. This artistic tradition is notable for its heavy

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The sculptural art of the Pala period, which flourished in the Bengal and Bihar regions between the eighth and twelfth centuries, is characterized by its technical refinement and stylistic elegance. Using fine-grained black basalt stone, Pala artists created images of both Buddhist and Brahmanical deities that are noted for their highly polished finish. The figures are typically depicted with slender, graceful forms and idealized proportions, often accompanied by elaborate and intricate ornamentation. This style represents a high point of medieval artistic achievement in Eastern India and had a profound influence on the development of religious art in neighboring regions such as Nepal, Tibet, and Southeast Asia during the same period.

229. (C) The Nagara Shikhara is curvilinear, while the Dravida Vimana is pyramidal.

The Nagara and Dravida temple styles are the two major architectural traditions of India, each defined by distinct structural characteristics. The most recognizable difference lies in the form of the main tower over the sanctum sanctorum. In the Nagara style, prevalent in North India, the tower or shikhara follows a curvilinear profile that tapers towards the top. In contrast, the Dravida style of South India features a tower known as a vimana, which takes the form of a stepped pyramid with multiple horizontal tiers. Other differences include the use of gopurams in the South and the notched amalaka disc in the North. These contrasting silhouettes and structural elements define the regional architectural identities of the subcontinent.

230. (D) I, II, III, and IV

The historical development of the stupa in India involves a gradual evolution of both form and function. Originating as a simple burial mound for relics, the stupa became a major focus of Buddhist devotion under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka. During the subsequent Shunga and Satavahana periods, these monuments were significantly enlarged, and stone replaced perishable materials for railings and gateways, leading to the creation of elaborate narrative reliefs. Furthermore, regional variations emerged, such as the unique ayaka platforms and pillars found in South Indian stupas like Amaravati. This collective evolution represents the growth of the stupa from a modest funerary structure into one of the most important and architecturally sophisticated symbols of the Buddhist faith.

231. (D) Lion

In the Jain religious tradition, each of the twenty-four Tirthankaras is associated with a unique animal or object symbol known as a lanchhana. Mahavira, the twenty-fourth and last Tirthankara of the current cycle, is traditionally identified by the symbol of a lion. This emblem is usually carved at the base of his statues or on his throne to help devotees distinguish him from other spiritual teachers. The lion symbolizes the spiritual strength, courage, and fearlessness that Mahavira embodied in his quest for enlightenment and his teachings on non-violence and renunciation. This symbolic system was a crucial part of Jain iconography, ensuring the correct identification and veneration of their spiritual leaders.

232. (A) Secular, vivid, and humanistic scenes

The mural paintings in the rock-cut caves at Bagh in Madhya Pradesh are contemporary to the later phase of Ajanta and are particularly significant for their thematic content. While the site is Buddhist in affiliation, the paintings are celebrated for their vivid depiction of secular and humanistic scenes. They portray aspects of contemporary social life, including royal processions, musical performances, and expressive dance scenes, with a great sense of dynamism and rich coloration. These artworks offer a valuable and rare glimpse into the cultural vibrancy and secular aesthetics of the Gupta period. They demonstrate that ancient Indian painting was a multifaceted tradition that captured the diverse beauty of both religious narratives and the everyday human world.

233. (C) It showcases a blend of Nagara and Dravida style temples.

The site of Pattadakal is of immense architectural significance because it represents a unique historical moment of artistic experimentation under the Early Chalukyas of Badami. Located in Karnataka, the site contains a remarkable collection of temples that were built between the seventh and eighth centuries. What makes Pattadakal exceptional is the presence of both North Indian Nagara style temples and South Indian Dravida style temples in a single location,

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as major centers for collective worship and artistic expression.

256. (B) The imitation of earlier constructions made of timber.

Ancient craftsmen transitioned from using perishable materials to carving permanent structures directly into living rock. Early rock-cut architecture often replicated the details of wooden buildings, including the representation of functional items like rafters and beams in stone. This practice demonstrates how traditional timber construction techniques provided the initial conceptual framework and aesthetic vocabulary for the development of durable rock-cut sanctuaries.

257. (D) To act as a hall for congregational worship.

In Buddhist architectural traditions, the chaitya hall serves as a primary space for community gatherings and collective religious practices. These halls are typically designed with a vaulted apsidal shape and contain a stupa at the far end to focus devotional attention. This configuration distinguishes the chaitya as a place for ritual worship rather than a residential or administrative area.

258. (A) Buddhism, Brahmanism, and Jainism.

The creation of religious spaces carved from natural rock received significant support from various major traditions in ancient India. While Buddhist sites are among the earliest and most numerous, Brahmanism and Jainism also extensively utilized this architectural form. This cross-religious patronage highlights the universal appeal and perceived permanence offered by rock-cut sanctuaries for establishing sacred sites across different theological movements.

259. (C) It progressed from plain imitations of wood to elaborate sculptural complexes.

Technical advancements in stone craftsmanship led to a visible evolution in rock-cut designs. Initial efforts were relatively simple and focused on mimicking wooden architectural elements in stone. As skills improved, these excavations became increasingly complex, resulting in multi-storied structures adorned with intricate carvings. This shift highlights a transition from functional replication to the creation of sophisticated and highly decorated sanctuaries.

260. (A) A monastery with cells for monks.

Religious communities required specific spaces to accommodate their resident members. The vihara was developed as a rock-cut monastery specifically for this purpose. These structures typically feature a central hall flanked by small, private cells where monks could live and study. Unlike worship halls, the vihara functioned primarily as a residential and communal living area within the larger monastic complex.

261. (D) The core sanctuary that houses the deity's image.

Central to the layout of an Indian temple is the garbhagriha, which functions as the innermost chamber. This space is intended to house the primary image of the deity, acting as the spiritual heart of the entire complex. Its name literally translates to womb-house, emphasizing its role as the sacred point of origin from which the temple structure radiates outward.

262. (B) A hybrid style combining Nagara and Dravida elements.

Architectural development in the Deccan region led to the emergence of the Vesara style. This tradition is characterized by its unique synthesis of features from both the Northern Nagara and the Southern Dravida styles. By blending diverse regional elements, Vesara architecture created a distinct aesthetic that represents a complex hybridization of the major temple-building traditions found across the Indian subcontinent.

263. (C) A pyramidal vimana made of receding tiers.

Regional temple traditions are often identified by the specific shape of their towers. The Dravida style, which is characteristic of South India, features a tower known as a vimana. This structure is typically pyramidal and is constructed with multiple receding tiers. This tiered verticality serves as a major distinguishing factor from the curvilinear spires commonly found in Northern Indian architecture.

264. (D) Nagara

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iconography that influenced traditions across Asia for centuries. These Buddha images are not merely objects of worship but are supreme expressions of the attainment of inner peace and enlightenment in stone.

239. (A) Consort

In Hindu iconography and philosophy, the term 'shakti' refers to the fundamental female principle and the active, creative energy of the universe. This divine energy is often personified as the consort of a major male deity, representing the power through which the god acts and manifests in the world. For example, Parvati is the shakti of Shiva, and Lakshmi is the shakti of Vishnu. This concept emphasizes the essential interdependence and union of the masculine and feminine aspects of divinity. Shakti forms can range from benevolent mothers to fierce warriors, reflecting the diverse and dynamic functions of the divine energy in maintaining cosmic order and overcoming obstacles on the spiritual path of the devotee.

240. (B) A large water tank (kalyani) inside the main enclosure

The Khajuraho temples, built by the Chandela rulers, are world-famous for their unique structural and decorative features within the Nagara tradition. Key characteristics include soaring curvilinear shikharas, high raised platforms known as jagatis, and extensive, layered sculptural ornamentation depicting diverse religious and secular themes, including the famous erotic scenes. These temples are also known for their integrated plan where the sanctum is directly connected to a series of assembly halls. However, unlike the large temple complexes of South India, Khajuraho temples do not typically feature a large water tank or kalyani located inside the main enclosure. Their design focuses on verticality and the richness of the stone carvings on the elevated structures themselves, reflecting the specific aesthetic preferences of the medieval North Indian builders.

241. (B) Dancing Girl from Mohenjo-Daro

The great antiquity of bronze casting in the Indian subcontinent is evidenced by the famous 'Dancing Girl' figurine found at Mohenjo-Daro. Created over four thousand years ago during the Indus Valley Civilization, this small statue was produced using the sophisticated lost-wax or cire perdue technique. This discovery demonstrates that ancient Indian craftsmen had mastered complex metallurgical processes and possessed a deep understanding of human anatomy and artistic expression at a very early stage. This early achievement laid the foundation for the long and rich tradition of metal sculpture in India, which would later culminate in the magnificent bronze masterpieces of the Chola period. The 'Dancing Girl' remains a crucial artifact for understanding the technological and artistic maturity of the subcontinent's earliest urban civilization.

242. (A) He rides a peacock and holds a spear (vel)

Kartikeya, also known as Murugan or Skanda, is a major deity in the Hindu pantheon, traditionally worshipped as the god of war and the commander of the divine army. In iconography, he is uniquely identified by several key attributes that reflect his powerful and youthful nature. He is consistently shown with his sacred mount, or vahana, which is a peacock. Additionally, his primary weapon and symbol is a powerful spear known as the vel, which represents spiritual wisdom and the power to overcome evil. Often depicted as a youthful warrior, Kartikeya's iconography is designed to symbolize his role as a protector and the vanquisher of ignorance, making him an especially popular and revered figure in the religious traditions of South India.

243. (C) Monumental representations of folk deities.

Early Yaksha and Yakshi images from the Mauryan and Shunga periods are monumental stone sculptures that reflect the deep-rooted folk traditions of ancient India. Before being incorporated into formal religious traditions like Buddhism or Jainism, these figures were primarily worshipped as local protective deities associated with nature spirits, fertility, wealth, and the earth. Characterized by their massive volume, robust physicality, and frontal postures, these colossal icons represent an indigenous artistic tradition that existed alongside and influenced the development of early religious iconography. They provide valuable evidence of the popular beliefs and the emergence of monumental stone carving in the subcontinent, showcasing how ancient folk traditions were

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iconic of these is the Nataraja, representing Shiva's cosmic dance. These bronzes are renowned for their perfect balance, fluid movement, and profound symbolism. Under the patronage of the Chola monarchs, this tradition of metal casting reached a level of excellence that established it as one of the greatest artistic achievements in human history.

223. (A) Rock-cut is carved from rock; structural is built with stone or brick

The fundamental distinction between rock-cut and structural architecture lies in the method of construction and the relationship with the natural environment. Rock-cut architecture involves the subtractive process of carving entire structures directly out of solid natural rock, as seen in the caves of Ajanta and Ellora. In contrast, structural architecture is an additive process where buildings are constructed from the ground up by assembling separate materials like stone blocks or bricks. While ancient India is famous for both traditions, the transition from rock-cut to structural forms represented a major evolution in engineering and provided greater flexibility in architectural design and placement of religious monuments.

224. (B) Use of spotted red sandstone

The Gandhara school of art is renowned for its unique fusion of Indian and Hellenistic styles, which flourished in the northwestern regions of ancient India. Its defining features include the use of blue-grey schist stone and the depiction of the Buddha with Western physical attributes, such as wavy hair, a moustache, and a muscular body. The drapery is also realistically carved with heavy, deep folds. However, the use of spotted red sandstone is a characteristic feature of the contemporary but stylistically distinct Mathura school. Mathura art remained more deeply rooted in indigenous Indian aesthetic traditions, providing a clear contrast to the Greco-Roman influences found in Gandhara art.

225. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The temple complex at Khajuraho stands as one of the most magnificent examples of the North Indian Nagara style of architecture. Built by the Chandela rulers, these temples are distinguished by their soaring curvilinear shikharas and high raised platforms called jagatis. The architectural plan is highly integrated, seamlessly connecting the sanctum with a series of assembly halls or mandapas. This structural unity, combined with the profuse and layered sculptural ornamentation on the exterior walls, represents the peak of Nagara architectural refinement. The consistent use of these features across the complex provides a clear and quintessential demonstration of the Northern Indian temple tradition in the medieval period.

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226. (A) Jataka tales and events from the life of the Buddha

The world-famous mural paintings, or frescoes, of the Ajanta caves are primarily dedicated to narrating the rich and diverse stories of the Buddhist tradition. The artworks vividly depict various Jataka tales, which tell the stories of the Buddha's previous lives, illustrating his journey towards enlightenment and his acts of compassion. They also portray significant events from his final life as Siddhartha Gautama. These paintings, created over several centuries, serve as a monumental visual record of Buddhist mythology and philosophy. They are renowned for their sophisticated use of color, fluid lines, and deep emotional expressiveness, reflecting the high level of artistic achievement in ancient India.

227. (C) Kalyani or Pushkarani

A characteristic feature of large South Indian temple complexes, particularly those built in the Dravida style, is the presence of a large water tank known as a kalyani or pushkarani. These sacred tanks serve both a ritual and a practical purpose, being used for ceremonial baths and as a source of water for the temple's daily activities. Often surrounded by stepped embankments and sometimes located within the main temple enclosure, these tanks are an integral part of the overall architectural plan. They symbolize the presence of sacred waters and add to the grandeur and spiritual atmosphere of the temple, reflecting the deep connection between water and holiness in Indian religious traditions.

228. (D) A highly polished finish and slender forms

the development of religious art across Asia for centuries.

249. (C) Rock-cut cave paintings are found at sites like Ajanta and Bagh.

The tradition of painting in ancient India is most magnificently preserved in the form of murals found at various rock-cut cave sites, such as Ajanta and Bagh. These paintings, created over several centuries, represent the high point of classical Indian art and provide invaluable insights into the religious, social, and cultural life of the time. While Ajanta is famous for its depiction of Buddhist Jataka tales, the Bagh caves feature more secular and humanistic themes alongside religious ones. These artworks demonstrate a sophisticated use of color, fluid lines, and a deep understanding of composition and storytelling. The existence of these paintings at multiple sites across different regions shows that mural painting was a widespread and highly developed artistic tradition that flourished under various royal dynasties in ancient India.

250. (B) I, II, and III only

The Dravida style of temple architecture, characteristic of South India, features a pyramidal tower known as a vimana over the sanctum. It is also distinguished by massive entrance gateways called gopurams and the presence of a temple tank. Features like the curvilinear shikhara, the amalaka, and the high jagati platform are instead defining elements of the Nagara style. Therefore, understanding these specific structural differences is essential for identifying the various regional traditions in Indian history and recognizing the unique artistic legacy of the South Indian architectural tradition. These features together reflect the grandeur and spiritual aspirations of the medieval dynasties that patronized these grand structural temples.

251. (B) A simple hemispherical earthen mound built over sacred relics.

Historical records indicate that the architectural origin of the stupa lies in its initial use as a burial site. These structures began as basic hemispherical mounds constructed from earth. They were designed specifically to contain and honor sacred relics, representing a transition from simple memorial markers into the complex stone and brick edifices seen in later Buddhist traditions.

252. (A) Harmika

Architectural layouts of classical stupas involve several specific components that hold symbolic importance. The harmika is defined as a square railing located at the very top of the main hemispherical dome. This particular feature serves as a pedestal for the central mast, known as the yashti, and distinguishes the sacred space from the rest of the structure's exterior.

253. (C) North Indian stupas are known for carved toranas, while South Indian stupas are noted for marble-encased drums with reliefs.

Regional differences in ancient architectural styles often reflected the available materials and local artistic preferences. In Northern regions, practitioners emphasized massive stone railings and intricately carved gateways featuring narrative scenes. Conversely, Southern artisans utilized sculpted marble slabs to cover the main brick structures, creating dynamic reliefs that differed significantly from the masonry techniques employed in the Northern stupa complexes.

254. (D) Toranas

The gateways positioned at the cardinal directions of a stupa enclosure are identified as toranas. These structures are integral to the overall design, often serving as canvases for elaborate carvings that depict religious stories and significant biographical events. They mark the entrance to the sacred path and signify the movement from the secular world into a consecrated religious space.

255. (C) Greater sophistication as centres of worship and art.

The transformation of the stupa illustrates an evolutionary path from rudimentary commemorative mounds to elaborate structural complexes. Over centuries, these sites incorporated increasingly complex masonry and sculptural programs. This progression reflects the changing requirements of the Buddhist community, turning simple relic containers into grander social and religious hubs that functioned

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gradually integrated into the broader religious and artistic landscape of India.

244. (D) South Indian stupas have ayaka platforms.

While the basic form of the Buddhist stupa remains a hemispherical dome, significant regional variations developed in the architectural details of North and South India. A primary structural difference is the presence of ayaka platforms in South Indian stupas, such as those found at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda. These platforms projected from the dome at each of the four cardinal directions and supported five tall, slender pillars known as ayaka-stambhas. These platforms and pillars carry specific symbolic meaning in the regional Buddhist tradition and are absent in North Indian stupas like the Great Stupa at Sanchi. This distinctive feature reflects the unique artistic and religious developments that occurred in the Andhra region, making South Indian stupas recognizable and stylistically distinct from their northern counterparts.

245. (A) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1

The history of Indian architecture is defined by the major contributions of different dynasties at key sites. The Early Chalukyas of Badami were known for their experimental approach, blending various styles at Pattadakal. The mature Chola dynasty reached the peak of the Dravida style with their grand monuments in Thanjavur. The Pallavas pioneered early South Indian forms with their rock-cut and structural monuments at Mahabalipuram. In North India, the Chandelas created the extraordinary Nagara temple complex at Khajuraho. These sites collectively showcase the diverse and evolving architectural traditions that flourished under royal patronage across the Indian subcontinent over several centuries. Correctly matching these dynasties with their major centers is essential for understanding the regional distribution of India's rich architectural and artistic heritage.

246. (B) Fired bricks with terracotta decoration

The temple at Bhitargaon in Uttar Pradesh is a significant landmark in the history of Indian architecture, being one of the oldest surviving examples of a structural temple from the Gupta period. What makes it unique is its construction material; unlike many other contemporary temples made of stone, Bhitargaon is built entirely of fired bricks. The temple is especially renowned for the elaborate terracotta panels that were used to decorate its exterior walls, depicting various religious and mythological scenes. This structure demonstrates that brick architecture and terracotta art were highly developed during the Gupta era, providing a sophisticated alternative to stone building in regions where stone was scarce. It stands as a testament to the versatility and skill of ancient Indian builders and artists.

247. (D) Shiva and his various forms and myths

The sculptural program at the magnificent Kailasa temple at Ellora, also known as Cave 16, is overwhelmingly focused on Lord Shiva, to whom the temple is dedicated. This monumental monolithic structure is adorned with an extraordinary array of relief carvings that depict various forms of Shiva and numerous episodes from Hindu mythology. These include famous scenes like Ravana shaking Mount Kailasa, Shiva as Nataraja performing his cosmic dance, and various benevolent and fierce manifestations of the deity. The carvings demonstrate the incredible artistic skill and religious devotion of the Rashtrakuta period, creating a comprehensive visual encyclopedia of Shaivite mythology within a single, massive architectural achievement. The temple serves as a powerful testament to the central role of Shiva in the religious and artistic life of early medieval India.

248. (A) Kushana period

The transition from symbolic to iconic representation of the Buddha is a major landmark in the history of Indian art and occurred during the Kushana period. Before this time, in the early phase of Buddhist art, the Buddha was never depicted in human form; instead, his presence was indicated through various symbols like a Bodhi tree or an empty throne. Under the patronage of the Kushana rulers, both the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art began creating anthropomorphic images, portraying the Buddha in human form with specific postures and gestures. This development allowed for a more direct and personal connection between the devotee and the divine, forever changing the course of Buddhist iconography and influencing

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Variations within temple building traditions often resulted in localized sub-styles with unique decorative features. The Bhumija style represents a specific and more intricate version of the Nagara tradition. It is identified by a central spire surrounded by smaller, miniature spires arranged in a specific quadrant pattern. This complexity demonstrates the sophisticated evolution of Northern architectural principles during the medieval period.

265. (A) Sacrificial rituals to devotional worship.

The rise of permanent temple structures reflects a fundamental transformation in ancient religious practices. Initially, worship focused on Vedic sacrificial rituals that did not require permanent buildings. As theistic devotion and personal worship of deities became more prominent, the need for sacred spaces to house divine images increased. This cultural shift directly influenced the design and construction of structural temples.

266. (B) Gupta

The Gupta period played a vital role in establishing the fundamental principles of temple construction. During this era, architecture transitioned from shrines carved into rock to the creation of freestanding structural buildings. These early temples provided the foundational grammar for later designs, making the Gupta dynasty's reign a critical period of innovation and refinement for the development of Indian sacred architecture.

267. (B) Monolithic rock-cut temples and early structural stone temples.

Architectural contributions by the Pallavas involved pioneering work in two distinct methods of construction. They are recognized for creating monolithic rathas, which were carved entirely from single large rocks. Additionally, they developed early structural stone temples built using individual blocks. These advancements show a clear progression from excavating natural landforms to constructing complex, freestanding edifices using sophisticated masonry techniques in South India.

268. (A) Experimenting with diverse plans and spire forms in the Deccan.

The Early Chalukyas of Badami were instrumental in exploring various architectural possibilities in the Deccan region. Their work is characterized by significant experimentation with different floor plans and tower shapes. By drawing inspiration from multiple regional traditions, they created a dynamic and innovative style. These diverse approaches established a foundation that would heavily influence subsequent architectural developments in the region.

269. (C) The Rashtrakutas

Innovations introduced by the Early Chalukyas had a lasting impact on the artistic traditions of the Deccan. Their experimental spire forms and diverse temple plans provided a model for later builders. Historical records show that the Rashtrakuta dynasty directly drew upon these earlier Chalukyan developments. This continuity helped shape the further evolution of the Vesara style and other regional architectural variations.

270. (D) Modest size with a square garbhagriha and a nascent shikhara.

Early structural temples during the Gupta era were typically characterized by their simple and compact designs. These buildings usually featured a square-shaped inner sanctuary and a small entrance porch. The towers on these temples were relatively low and represented the early, developmental stages of the shikhara. These modest structures established the essential elements that would be expanded in later centuries.

271. (C) A main shikhara surrounded by a cluster of subsidiary spires.

The temples at Khajuraho are renowned for their sophisticated interpretation of the Nagara style. A key visual feature is the complex arrangement of the roof, where the primary tower is encircled by numerous smaller subsidiary spires called urushringas. This grouping creates a dramatic, mountain-like silhouette that emphasizes verticality and represents the mature phase of Northern Indian temple architectural design.

272. (B) Deul and Jagamohana

In the regional Kalinga style of Odisha, the temple structure is typically divided into two main joined parts. The vertical spire that houses the deity is

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sometimes standing side-by-side. This stylistic coexistence reflects the inclusive and creative patronage of the Chalukyan rulers, who fostered a synthesis of diverse regional architectural traditions. This blend makes Pattadakal a vital center for studying the evolution and interaction of major Indian temple styles during the early medieval period.

234. (A) Mahayana-Vajrayana Buddhism

The deity Tara is a central and highly revered figure in the iconography of Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism. She is worshipped as a female Bodhisattva of compassion and protection, often described as the 'mother of all Buddhas'. Tara is believed to have various forms and colors, such as Green Tara and White Tara, each representing specific spiritual qualities and roles in assisting practitioners to overcome both physical and mental obstacles. Her presence in Buddhist art and ritual gained significant prominence as the pantheon expanded to include more merciful and protective female figures. Tara embodies the ideal of active compassion, helping all sentient beings on their path towards enlightenment, and her images remain widespread in Buddhist traditions throughout Asia.

235. (A) I, II, III, and V only

Hoysala art and architecture represent a highly distinctive and sophisticated regional tradition that flourished in Karnataka. Key features include the use of soft soapstone, which allowed for the extremely profuse and intricate sculptural ornamentation that covers nearly every surface of the temples. The ground plans are often star-shaped or stellate, providing more space for elaborate carvings. Major centers of this style include the magnificent temples at Belur and Halebidu. However, unlike the contemporary Chola style, Hoysala temples do not feature tall and imposing pyramidal vimanas. Instead, they focus on horizontal complexity and detailed, layered carvings at the base and on the walls. These features collectively define the unique aesthetic and structural brilliance of the Hoysala architectural legacy.

236. (B) Rock-cut architecture

The Lomas Rishi cave, dating back to the Mauryan period in the third century BCE, is a landmark monument in the history of Indian art. It is a key example of the origin of rock-cut architecture, representing the revolutionary transition of carving permanent sanctuaries out of solid natural rock. The cave is particularly famous for its sophisticated facade, which features a detailed chaitya arch that meticulously imitates contemporary wooden architecture, including representations of wooden beams and lattice work. This imitation of wooden forms in stone demonstrates the advanced craftsmanship of the Mauryan builders and their desire to translate existing architectural traditions into a more permanent and durable medium. This pioneering work laid the essential foundation for the subsequent centuries of magnificent Indian cave temples.

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237. (C) Pallava

The 'Descent of the Ganga', also known as 'Arjuna's Penance', is a massive and magnificent open-air relief carved into two giant granite boulders at Mahabalipuram. This masterpiece was created during the Pallava period in the seventh century and is one of the largest and most famous relief sculptures in the world. It depicts numerous figures, including gods, humans, and life-sized elephants, all centered around a natural cleft in the rock that represents the sacred river. The relief showcases the extraordinary ability of Pallava artists to narrate complex mythological stories on a monumental scale with great dynamism and detail. It stands as a powerful testament to the artistic vision and religious devotion that flourished under the patronage of the Pallava kings.

238. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The Sarnath school of sculpture reached its zenith during the Gupta period, creating Buddha images that are widely considered the highest achievement of classical Indian art. These sculptures are celebrated for their profound sense of spiritual serenity, characterized by a calm, introspective expression and downcast eyes. Technically, they are notable for their idealized proportions, smooth body modeling, and the use of thin, transparent drapery that elegantly reveals the underlying form of the body. This style reflects the artistic refinement and religious depth of the Gupta era, establishing a benchmark for Buddhist

reliance on Greco-Roman conventions. The resulting images of the Buddha often resemble Greek deities, featuring wavy hair and toga-like garments. This fusion of Western aesthetic styles with Eastern religious subjects created a distinct and influential branch of early Indian sculpture.

282. (B) Its development from the indigenous Yaksha tradition.

Developing in north-central India, the Mathura school represents an indigenous artistic lineage. It drew inspiration from earlier traditions of carving Yaksha and Yakshi figures. Sculptures from this school are typically made from local red-spotted sandstone and are characterized by a robust, energetic physical presence. This style emphasizes local aesthetic values rather than the foreign artistic conventions found in contemporary northwestern regions.

283. (B) Synthesizing elements from earlier schools to create a new ideal.

During the Gupta period, the Sarnath school achieved a highly celebrated artistic synthesis. By combining the anatomical awareness and drapery styles of Gandhara with the indigenous vitality and spiritual focus of Mathura, Sarnath artisans created a refined and idealized image. This new aesthetic focused on harmony and spiritual grace, representing the peak of classical expression in ancient Indian sculptural history.

284. (A) Gandhara used toga-like drapes, while Sarnath used translucent drapery revealing the form.

The treatment of clothing provides a clear distinction between the Gandhara and Sarnath schools. Gandhara sculptures exhibit heavy, toga-like garments with realistic folds influenced by Western classical art. In contrast, the Sarnath school developed a style of translucent drapery that appears to cling to the body. This technique allows the underlying physical form to remain visible, emphasizing the serene divinity of the figure.

285. (C) A sublime spiritual grace and serene divinity.

Gupta sculpture from the Sarnath school is widely regarded for its transcendental quality. Rather than focusing on muscular realism or robust physicality, these works emphasize a calm and inward-looking expression. The overall effect is one of sublime spiritual grace. This approach created a balanced and serene representation of divinity that became the definitive standard for classical artistic achievement in ancient India.

286. (D) Chola

The Chola dynasty achieved unparalleled excellence in the field of metallurgy. They utilized the lost-wax process to cast sophisticated bronze images of deities. One of the most iconic examples of their work is the figure of Shiva as Nataraja, the Lord of Dance. These bronzes are famous for their rhythmic balance, intricate detail, and deep symbolic meaning in Hindu iconography.

287. (C) The Hoysalas of the Deccan.

Artisans under the Hoysala dynasty developed a unique sculptural style that is characterized by extreme detail. Using soapstone, which is relatively soft and easy to carve, they produced incredibly intricate depictions of jewelry, clothing, and decorative patterns. This profusion of minute detail creates a rich texture across the entire surface of the sculptures, making their work easily distinguishable from other traditions.

288. (B) Elegant and stylized figures in black stone and bronze.

Flourishing in eastern India, the Pala school is recognized for its refined and sophisticated artistic output. Sculptors primarily used black stone and bronze to create elegant figures that represent a later development of the Gupta aesthetic. Their work often features a high degree of stylization and intricate ornamentation, frequently depicting various deities from the extensive Buddhist and Hindu pantheons of the era.

289. (D) Dynamic and rhythmic human figures.

The sculptural program at Khajuraho, created by the Chandelas, is celebrated for its vitality and artistic expression. The human figures are depicted with a strong sense of movement and rhythmic grace. These sculptures often appear in complex arrangements that celebrate various aspects of human existence. This dynamic quality contrasts with more static or formal styles, reflecting a vibrant artistic culture.

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33. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Term from Inscriptions)
P. Prashasti
Q. Dhamma-mahamatta
R. Bali
S. Devaputra
List II:(Meaning)
1. A royal title used by Kushan kings
2. A type of tax, later a religious offering
3. A eulogy of a king
4. An officer appointed by Asoka to propagate morality
Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-4, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3

34. The Nasik cave III inscription of the 19th year of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi is a key source for the achievements of which Satavahana ruler?
(A) Gautamiputra Satakarni
(B) Vasishtaputra Pulmavi himself
(C) Simuka
(D) Hala

35. The term 'matsyanyaya', mentioned in the Khalimpur copper plate of Dharmapala, refers to what condition?
(A) A period of severe famine.
(B) A system of naval warfare.
(C) A political situation where the strong devour the weak.
(D) A religious doctrine concerning reincarnation.

36. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta is a valuable source for the Gupta-Huna conflict.
Reason (R) : It records Skandagupta's victory over the Hunas, which restored the fallen fortunes of his family.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

37. What is the most significant information provided by the Lumbini pillar inscription of Asoka?
(A) It announces the prohibition of animal sacrifice.
(B) It details Asoka's conquest of Kalinga and his subsequent remorse.
(C) It confirms the location of Buddha's birthplace and records a tax exemption.
(D) It lists several Buddhist scriptures for the clergy to study.

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38. Consider the following statements about the Aihole pillar inscription:
(a) It was composed in Sanskrit by the Jain poet Ravikirti.
(b) It is dated in the Saka era.
(c) It compares its composer, Ravikirti, to the poets Kalidasa and Bharavi.
(d) It describes Pulakesin II's defeat at the hands of Harshavardhana.
(e) It is located in a temple at Aihole, which is described as the capital of the Chalukyas.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a), (b), and (d) only
(B) (b), (c), and (e) only
(C) (a), (b), (c), and (e)
(D) (a), (c), and (d) only

39. What script was used for writing the Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman and the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta?
(A) Kharosthi
(B) Aramaic
(C) Grantha
(D) Brahmi

40. Which of the following inscriptions is NOT primarily a prashasti (eulogy)?
(A) Lumbini inscription of Asoka
(B) Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II
(C) Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja
(D) Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta

shows how a common aesthetic could be adapted for different purposes.

299. (B) Jainism

The rock-cut paintings at Sittanavasal are significant for their association with the Jain religious tradition. Dating from the early medieval period, these artworks are distinguished by their delicate lines and a powerful, though limited, range of colors. They provide a rare and valuable example of Jain mural painting, showcasing how this specific community utilized visual art to express its unique spiritual values.

300. (A) A more popular and widespread medium depicting a wider range of subjects.

Terracotta served as a popular medium that was more accessible and widespread than expensive stone or metal. Because it was used by many different levels of society, it featured a much broader range of subjects, including secular scenes and folk deities. This makes terracotta art a valuable counterpoint to formal religious sculpture, offering a more complete view of ancient culture.

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CHAPTER 08

Palaeography and Epigraphy

1. What is the primary definition of Epigraphy in the context of historical studies?
(A) The study of ancient coins and their iconography.
(B) The study of ancient and medieval inscriptions.
(C) The analysis of literary texts for historical data.
(D) The excavation of ancient archaeological sites.

2. Given below are two statements regarding epigraphy as a source of Indian history.
Statement I : Inscriptions are generally free from the process of interpolation and corruption that literary texts undergo over time.
Statement II : The information from inscriptions is often limited as they are typically donative or commemorative and not comprehensive historical chronicles.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

3. Which theory proposes that the Brahmi script evolved indigenously from the pictographic script of the Indus Valley Civilization?
(A) The Semitic Origin Theory
(B) The Greek Origin Theory
(C) The Indigenous Origin Theory
(D) The Aramaic Origin Theory

4. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement regarding the Kharosthi script?
(A) It was written from right to left.
(B) Its use was largely confined to the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent.
(C) It is believed to have been derived from the Aramaic script.
(D) It is considered the mother script for most modern Indian scripts like Devanagari.

5. Which Asokan Rock Edict explicitly mentions provisions for medical treatment for both humans and animals, not only in his kingdom but also in the lands of his neighbours?
(A) Rock Edict X
(B) Rock Edict XIII
(C) Rock Edict II
(D) Rock Edict XII

6. Given below are two statements about Asokan edicts.
Statement I : The Lumbini pillar inscription records Asoka's pilgrimage to the birthplace of Buddha and the grant of tax concessions to the village.
Statement II : The Bairat minor rock edict shows Asoka's personal faith in Buddhism and lists several Buddhist texts for study by the monks and laity.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

7. The Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription is a significant piece of evidence for which of the following historical developments?
(A) The spread of Buddhism to Central Asia.
(B) The first use of the Sanskrit language in a royal epigraph.
(C) The conflict between the Mauryas and the Sungas.

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(D) The adoption of Vaishnavism by a Greek ambassador.

8. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman I is a landmark in the history of the Sanskrit language.
Reason (R) : It is the earliest known major inscription written in chaste and elaborate Sanskrit prose.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

9. The Hathigumpha inscription, located in the Udayagiri hills near Bhubaneswar, is the primary source of information for the reign of which king?
(A) Gautamiputra Satakarni
(B) Rudradaman I
(C) Kharavela
(D) Asoka

10. Consider the following statements regarding the origin and development of scripts in India:
(a) The Kharosthi script is written from left to right, similar to Brahmi.
(b) Georg Bühler's theory proposed a Semitic origin for the Brahmi script.
(c) The Kharosthi script was primarily used in southern and eastern India.
(d) Most modern Indian scripts, including Devanagari, are derived from Brahmi.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a) and (c) only
(B) (b) and (d) only
(C) (a), (b) and (d) only
(D) (b), (c) and (d) only

11. The Nasik cave inscription of Ushavadata, the son-in-law of the Kshaharata ruler Nahapana, primarily records what?
(A) His military victories against the neighboring Satavahana rulers.
(B) His royal genealogy and the details of his coronation ceremony.
(C) His extensive patronage of Sanskrit literature and court poetry.
(D) His numerous public benefactions and religious donations.

12. Which of the following is an INCORRECT statement about the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta?
(A) It was composed by his court poet and minister, Harishena.
(B) It is written entirely in the Brahmi script and Prakrit language.
(C) The inscription is engraved on a pillar that also contains edicts of Asoka.
(D) It provides a detailed list of kings and regions conquered by Samudragupta.

13. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Inscription)
P. Hathigumpha inscription
Q. Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription
R. Junagadh rock inscription
S. Nasik cave inscription
List II:(Associated Ruler)
1. Rudradaman I
2. Vasishtaputra Pulmavi
3. Kharavela
4. Heliodorus
Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

14. The Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II, composed by Ravikirti, famously records his victory over which powerful North Indian ruler?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Mihir Bhoja
(C) Dharmapala
(D) Harshavardhana

15. The Bhitri pillar inscription is a crucial source for understanding the latter part of the reign of Skandagupta, particularly his conflict with which group of invaders?
(A) The Hunas
(B) The Sakas

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(C) The Kushanas
(D) The Greeks

16. Which of the following statements about the Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja is correct?
(A) It is a copper plate grant recording the donation of a village to a Buddhist monastery.
(B) It is a prashasti (eulogy) that traces the genealogy and achievements of the dynasty.
(C) It is written in Prakrit language and Kharosthi script.
(D) It records a peace treaty between Mihir Bhoja and the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha.

17. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Khalimpur copper plate of Dharmapala mentions the end of a period of 'matsyanyaya' (anarchy) in Bengal before the election of his father, Gopala.
Statement II : The inscription is primarily a record of a land grant to a Vaishnava temple.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

18. The Sanjan copper plates of the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I are particularly important for detailing which historical event?
(A) The lineage of the dynasty, tracing it back to the Yadu race.
(B) The administrative foundation of the capital city Manyakheta.
(C) The settlement of foreign Arab merchants on the Konkan coast.
(D) The Rashtrakuta military invasion of the southern Chola kingdom.

19. Which of the following is NOT a major theme of Asoka's Rock Edict XIII?
(A) Remorse over the Kalinga war.
(B) The propagation of Dhamma as the true conquest.
(C) The appointment of Dhamma-mahamattas.
(D) The names of several contemporary Hellenistic kings.

20. The Truvalangad copper plates of Rajendra Chola I (year 6) are a key source for which of the following?
(A) The administrative system of the Chola village assemblies (sabha).
(B) The rules for election to various committees in the village of Uttiramerur.
(C) The naval expedition against the Srivijaya kingdom.
(D) A detailed genealogy of the Chola dynasty, including mythical ancestors.

21. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Asoka's Rock Edict XII is a testament to his policy of religious tolerance.
Reason (R) : The edict appeals for the growth of the essence of all sects and for restraint in speech when criticising other sects.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

22. The Tharsapalli copper plates, a major source for the history of early medieval Kerala, record a grant made to which community?
(A) A group of Jain monks.
(B) The Nestorian Christian church.
(C) A Jewish trading guild.
(D) A Shaivite monastery.

23. Consider the following statements about specific inscriptions:
(a) The Saranath Buddha image inscription is dated in the reign of the Kushan king Kanishka.
(b) The Lucknow museum Jain image inscription belongs to the time of the Kushan king Huviska.
(c) The Swat relic casket inscription is one of the earliest epigraphs of the Kushan period.
(d) The Nasik cave III inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi is written in Sanskrit.

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(e) The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman was composed in Prakrit.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a), (b) and (e) only
(B) (b), (c) and (d) only
(C) (a), (b) and (c) only
(D) (c), (d) and (e) only

24. The Lucknow museum Jain image inscription, dated to the time of Huviska, is significant for the history of which religion during the Kushan period?
(A) Jainism
(B) Buddhism
(C) Bhagavatism
(D) Shaivism

25. The Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV is associated with which dynasty?
(A) Chalukyas of Badami
(B) Pallavas of Kanchi
(C) Rashtrakutas of Manyakheta
(D) Cholas of Thanjavur

26. Arrange the following inscriptions in chronological order based on the rulers who issued them:
1. Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta
2. Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela
3. Asokan Rock Edict XIII
4. Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II

Select the correct answer from the codes below:
(A) 3, 2, 1, 4
(B) 2, 3, 4, 1
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 1, 3, 2, 4

27. What does Asoka's Rock Edict X advocate for?
(A) The abolition of capital punishment.
(B) The construction of roads and wells for public welfare.
(C) The prohibition of animal sacrifices in the capital.
(D) The rejection of fame and glory in favour of adherence to Dhamma.

28. Which of the following is an INCORRECT pair of Inscription and its associated dynasty?
(A) Khalimpur copper plate - Pala dynasty
(B) Bhitri pillar inscription - Maukhari dynasty
(C) Sanjan copper plate - Rashtrakuta dynasty
(D) Aihole pillar inscription - Chalukya dynasty

29. The Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman was composed by which poet?
(A) Ravikirti
(B) Harishena
(C) Vasula
(D) Vatsabhatti

30. Consider the following statements regarding the contents of the Hathigumpha inscription:
(a) It is written year-wise, describing the events of Kharavela's reign for thirteen years.
(b) It mentions Kharavela's conflict with the Satavahana king Satakarni.
(c) It records Kharavela bringing back a Jina image that had been taken away by a Nanda king.
(d) It is composed in a highly poetic Sanskrit style.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a), (b) and (d) only
(B) (b) and (c) only
(C) (a), (b) and (c) only
(D) (a), (c) and (d) only

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31. The Saranath Buddha image inscription of the time of Kanishka I is important because:
(A) It records the installation of a Bodhisattva image by a monk named Bala.
(B) It is the first epigraphic evidence for the use of the Saka era.
(C) It depicts the Buddha in human form for the first time.
(D) It provides a complete genealogy of the Kushan dynasty.

32. Which of the following statements about the Swat relic casket inscription is INCORRECT?
(A) It is written in the Kharosthi script.
(B) It is dated in the reign of the Indo-Greek king Menander.
(C) It is a Buddhist inscription recording the establishment of relics.
(D) It is an important epigraph for the early history of the Kushanas or pre-Kushana period.

290. (A) Gupta

Pala art is considered a continuation and further refinement of the aesthetic standards established during the Gupta period. While the Palas developed their own regional characteristics, such as increased stylization and more complex ornamentation, the underlying principles of form and elegance were derived from the earlier classical age. This evolution shows how Gupta artistic ideals were adapted and transformed in eastern India.

291. (C) The specific attributes or weapons held by deities.

In the study of iconography, deities are often identified by the objects they carry in their hands. These attributes or weapons are referred to as ayudhas. For example, a deity might hold a mace, a lotus, or a trident. These specific items serve as symbolic markers that allow viewers to correctly identify the divine figure and understand their particular powers or roles.

292. (A) By their specific identifying symbols, or lanchanas.

Jain artistic traditions involve specific methods for distinguishing between the twenty-four Tirthankaras. Although they are usually depicted in similar meditative or standing postures, each is assigned a unique identifying symbol known as a lanchana. For instance, a bull is associated with Rishabhdev, while a serpent hood identifies Parshvanath. These symbols are essential for the accurate recognition of individual spiritual leaders.

293. (D) Surya

The iconography of the sun god, Surya, includes several distinct and consistent features. One of the most prominent is his chariot, which is depicted as being pulled by seven horses. This specific arrangement represents the sun's journey across the sky. Along with other attributes, this chariot and its horses serve as a definitive visual marker for identifying Surya in Indian art.

294. (B) Tara

Buddhist iconography encompasses a wide range of figures beyond the Buddha himself. This includes compassionate beings known as Bodhisattvas and several female divinities. Among these, Tara is a major figure identifiable through specific visual cues. She is often associated with a particular color and is frequently shown holding a lotus, representing her compassionate and protective nature within the broader Buddhist pantheon.

295. (C) Ganesha: elephant head, mace.

Correct identification in Brahmanical iconography depends on matching deities with their specific features and attributes. Ganesha is universally recognized by his elephant head, and he is often depicted holding a mace. Other deities have their own unique sets of symbols, such as Vishnu with a discus or Shiva with a trident, which must be accurately represented to identify each figure.

296. (D) An understanding of daily life, fashion, and folk beliefs.

Terracotta art serves as an important source of information about the broader population in ancient India. Unlike formal stone sculptures that often focused on elite or religious themes, terracotta figurines depicted a wider variety of secular subjects. These objects provide valuable insights into the common people's daily activities, the clothing styles of the time, and the underlying folk traditions.

297. (A) Jataka tales and courtly life.

The mural paintings in the Ajanta caves are considered masterpieces of ancient visual art. They are particularly praised for their vibrant and emotionally rich depictions of Jataka tales, which narrate the previous lives of the Buddha. Additionally, these murals provide detailed glimpses into contemporary courtly life, showcasing a mature artistic tradition that excelled in composition, line, and the use of color.

298. (B) The style is closely related to Ajanta but more secular and spontaneous.

The relationship between different cave painting sites highlights regional variations within a shared artistic tradition. The paintings at the Bagh caves are stylistically very similar to those found at Ajanta. However, the Bagh murals are noted for having a more secular focus and a greater sense of spontaneity. This comparison

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41. The policy of conquest through Dhamma (Dhamma-vijaya) is most elaborately described in which Asokan edict?
(A) Rock Edict II
(B) Rock Edict X
(C) Rock Edict XIII
(D) Minor Rock Edict of Bairat

42. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Tharsapalli copper plates were issued by the Ay king Vikramaditya Varaguna.
Statement II : The plates record a grant to the Nestorian merchant Maruvan Sapir Iso and are signed by witnesses from multiple communities, indicating a pluralistic society.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

43. The repair of the Sudarshana lake during the reign of Rudradaman I, as mentioned in the Junagadh inscription, was carried out by his governor (amatya) named:
(A) Pushyagupta
(B) Tushaspha
(C) Parnadatta
(D) Suvisakha

44. The Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja is significant for tracing the genealogy of which dynasty?
(A) The Palas
(B) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
(C) The Rashtrakutas
(D) The Chalukyas

45. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the content of the Sanjan copper plates of Amoghavarsha?
(A) They record the construction of a Jain temple by the king.
(B) They provide a detailed account of the tripartite struggle for Kannauj.
(C) They record a land grant and provide a detailed historical genealogy.
(D) They lay down the code of conduct for merchants trading in the kingdom.

46. Arrange the following events, known from inscriptions, in chronological order:
1. Skandagupta's victory over the Hunas (Bhitri Inscription)
2. Pulakesin II's victory over Harsha (Aihole Inscription)
3. Samudragupta's southern campaign (Allahabad Prashasti)
4. Rajendra Chola's northern expedition (Truvalangad Plates)

Select the correct answer from the codes below:
(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 2, 1, 3, 4

47. The Truvalangad copper plates provide a detailed genealogy of the Chola dynasty, starting from mythical figures and leading up to which ruler?
(A) Rajendra I
(B) Vijayalaya
(C) Rajaraja I
(D) Kulottunga I

48. The theory that Brahmi script was of foreign Semitic origin, derived from scripts like Phoenician or Aramaic, was most forcefully advocated by which scholar?
(A) R. Shamasastry
(B) Georg Bühler
(C) K.P. Jayaswal
(D) Alexander Cunningham

49. What makes the Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV historically controversial or notable?
(A) It is the first Rashtrakuta grant made to a Christian church.
(B) It contains boastful praise contrasting with the king's weak rule.
(C) It is written in the Tamil language, unlike other Rashtrakuta plates.
(D) It records the defeat of the Rashtrakutas by the Pratiharas.

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50. Consider the following statements regarding epigraphic sources:
(a) The Bhitri inscription mentions Skandagupta's restoration of his family's fortunes by defeating the Pushyamitras.
(b) The Aihole inscription was composed in Kannada, the local language.
(c) The Khalimpur plate credits Gopala with ending the state of 'matsyanyaya' in Bengal.
(d) The Sanjan plates were issued by the Rashtrakuta king Dantidurga.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a) and (c) only
(B) (b) and (d) only
(C) (a), (b) and (c) only
(D) (b), (c) and (d) only

51. The Hathigumpha inscription mentions that in the twelfth year of his reign, Kharavela attacked a king of Uttarapatha. Who was this king?
(A) Pushyamitra Sunga
(B) Demetrius
(C) Brihaspatimitra
(D) Satakarni

52. The title 'Devanampiya Piyadasi' (Beloved of the Gods, He who looks on with affection) is most famously associated with the inscriptions of which ruler?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Kanishka
(C) Kharavela
(D) Asoka

53. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Copper plate inscriptions became increasingly common from the Gupta period onwards.
Reason (R) : They were primarily used to record land grants made by rulers to individuals or institutions, and being portable, they served as legal titles to the land.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

54. Which of the following inscriptions is written in a 'champu' style, mixing prose and verse?
(A) Asokan Rock Edict XIII
(B) Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta
(C) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela
(D) Lumbini inscription of Asoka

55. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Inscription)
P. Junagadh Inscription of Rudradaman
Q. Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela
R. Most Asokan Edicts
S. Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II
List II:(Language)
1. Prakrit (using Brahmi script)
2. Sanskrit
3. Prakrit (influenced by Sanskrit)
4. Prakrit
Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-2, S-3
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-2

56. What unique feature distinguishes the Hathigumpha inscription from most other royal prashastis of ancient India?
(A) It is a year-by-year chronicle of the king's reign.
(B) It is written in the Kharosthi script.
(C) It records a land grant to a Jain monastery.
(D) It is composed entirely in verse.

57. The Bairat minor rock edict is addressed to whom?
(A) The general public of Magadha
(B) The Mahamattas of Tosali
(C) The Sangha (Buddhist monastic community)
(D) The forest tribes of the border regions

58. Which of these inscriptions provides the first epigraphic evidence for the practice of Sati by mentioning the self-immolation of the wife of a general named Goparaja?
(A) Eran inscription of Bhanugupta
(B) Bhitri pillar inscription of Skandagupta
(C) Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman

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(D) Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II

59. Consider the following statements about the Allahabad Prashasti:
(a) It mentions Samudragupta's policy of 'grahanamokshanugraha' towards the kings of Dakshinapatha.
(b) It was engraved by an official named Tilabhatta.
(c) It describes Samudragupta as a great musician and poet (Kaviraja).
(d) It lists the frontier kingdoms that paid tribute to Samudragupta.
(e) It is written in the Grantha script.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a), (c), and (e) only
(B) (b), (d), and (e) only
(C) (a), (b), (c), and (d) only
(D) (a), (c), and (d) only

60. The Besnagar Garuda pillar was erected by Heliodorus, an ambassador of which Indo-Greek king?
(A) Menander
(B) Antialcidas
(C) Demetrius
(D) Eucratides

61. The phrase sarva-loka-hita (for the welfare of all people), which summarises a key aspect of royal duty, is a central theme in the inscriptions of:
(A) Kharavela
(B) Rudradaman I
(C) Asoka
(D) Samudragupta

62. Which inscription provides a detailed genealogy of the Pala dynasty and celebrates the naval achievements of Devapala?
(A) Khalimpur copper plate of Dharmapala
(B) Munger copper plate of Devapala
(C) Sanjan copper plate of Amoghavarsha
(D) Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja

63. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Junagadh inscription records that the Sudarshana lake was originally built during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya.
Statement II : The same inscription mentions that the lake was later repaired during the reign of Asoka Maurya.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

64. The Aihole inscription poetically describes the city of Aihole as being adorned with a multitude of temples, making it look like the residence of the God Indra. This indicates its importance as:
(A) A major political capital
(B) A thriving commercial port
(C) A significant religious and architectural centre
(D) A strategic military fortress

65. The term 'pranaya-datta' found in the Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman, refers to what?
(A) A voluntary offering made out of affection.
(B) A tax levied in times of emergency.
(C) A dowry given during a royal wedding.
(D) A fine imposed for a legal transgression.

66. Which script's name is theorised by some scholars to mean of the city of asses (khara-ostha)?
(A) Brahmi
(B) Kharosthi
(C) Grantha
(D) Siddhamatrika

67. The Lucknow Museum Jain image inscription from the time of Huviska records the setting up of an image by a lady for the welfare of:
(A) The Kushan emperor
(B) The Jain Sangha
(C) Her parents and all living beings
(D) The governor of the province

68. Arrange the following rulers in the correct chronological sequence of their reigns, based on their inscriptions:
1. Rudradaman I
2. Samudragupta
3. Kharavela

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Maharashtra.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

86. The Mandsor pillar inscription of Yasovarman is a prashasti that celebrates his victories. It claims he ruled a territory from the Brahmaputra to the Western Ocean and from the Himalayas to which mountain?
(A) Vindhyas
(B) Sahyadri
(C) Mahendra
(D) Nilgiri

87. Which inscription provides crucial evidence for the beginning of the Gupta era by mentioning Samudragupta as the son of Chandragupta I, the first 'Maharajadhiraja' of the dynasty?
(A) Bhitri pillar inscription
(B) Allahabad pillar inscription
(C) Mehrauli iron pillar inscription
(D) Eran inscription of Samudragupta

88. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The origin of the Brahmi script is a subject of intense scholarly debate.
Reason (R) : While some scholars proposed a foreign Semitic origin, others have argued for an indigenous development from the Indus script.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

89. Which of the following inscriptions is NOT found on a stone pillar?
(A) Besnagar Garuda inscription
(B) Allahabad inscription of Samudragupta
(C) Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta
(D) Khalimpur plate of Dharmapala

90. The Aihole inscription is dated Saka 556, which corresponds to which year in the Common Era?
(A) 478 CE
(B) 634 CE
(C) 78 CE
(D) 556 CE

91. Arrange the following dynasties in the chronological order of their epigraphic records:
1. Rashtrakuta (Sanjan Plates)
2. Later Gupta (Bhitri Inscription)
3. Maurya (Asokan Edicts)
4. Saka (Junagadh Inscription)

Select the correct answer from the codes below:
(A) 3, 4, 2, 1
(B) 4, 3, 1, 2
(C) 3, 2, 4, 1
(D) 2, 4, 3, 1

92. Which of the following statements about the Tharsapalli plates is INCORRECT?
(A) They were issued in the 9th century CE by the ruler of Venad.
(B) They record a grant to a Christian church and trading guild.
(C) The grant was made by the local ruler Sthanu Ravi.
(D) The entire inscription is written in Sanskrit using the Nagari script.

93. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Dynasty)
P. Chola
Q. Pala
R. Gurjara-Pratihara
S. Chalukya of Badami
List II:(A Major Inscription)
1. Gwalior Inscription of Bhoja
2. Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II
3. Truvalangad Plates of Rajendra I
4. Khalimpur Plate of Dharmapala

Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

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List II:(Associated Inscription)

1. Mandsor Inscription of Kumaragupta I
2. Mandsor Inscription of Yasovarman
3. Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II
4. Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-3, S-1
(D) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4

78. The practice of studying ancient writing is known as palaeography. What is the key difference between palaeography and epigraphy?

(A) Palaeography studies writing on soft materials like palm leaf, while epigraphy studies inscriptions on hard surfaces like stone or metal.
(B) Palaeography focuses on the script's evolution, while epigraphy focuses on the historical content of the inscription.
(C) Palaeography is the study of scripts, while epigraphy is the study of the entire inscription as a historical document.
(D) There is no significant difference; the terms are interchangeable.

79. Which inscription describes its patron king as having destroyed the pride of the Hunas and being a veritable axe to the Chalukyas?

(A) Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja
(B) Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsha
(C) Khalimpur plate of Dharmapala
(D) Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman

80. What is the significance of the phrase 'vayam svayam-uparjita-visala-rajyasya' (of me, who has acquired a vast kingdom by my own efforts) in Rudradaman's Junagadh inscription?

(A) It highlights his divine right to rule.
(B) It suggests he was a usurper who overthrew the previous dynasty.
(C) It emphasizes his status as a self-made king, not just an inheritor of a kingdom.
(D) It indicates his victory over a Mauryan king.

81. Consider the following statements regarding the Gwalior Prashasti of Mihir Bhoja:

(a) It is written in Nagari script and Sanskrit language.
(b) It calls the early Pratihara rulers descendants of Lakshmana, the brother of Rama.
(c) It records the construction of a temple dedicated to Vishnu.
(d) It mentions Mihir Bhoja's defeat at the hands of the Pala king Devapala.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(A) (a), (b) and (d) only
(B) (a), (b) and (c) only
(C) (b), (c) and (d) only
(D) (a), (c) and (d) only

82. The title Satavahana-kula-yasa-patithapana-kara (the one who re-established the glory of the Satavahana family) is used for which king in the Nasik inscription of his mother?

(A) Simuka
(B) Krishna
(C) Gautamiputra Satakarni
(D) Vasishtaputra Pulmavi

83. Which of the following inscriptions is written in Prakrit and Brahmi script, and provides a year-wise account of the ruler's achievements?

(A) Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman
(B) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela
(C) Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta
(D) Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II

84. The Saranath Buddha image inscription is dated to the 3rd regnal year of Kanishka I and records the installation of a Bodhisattva image by a monk named Bala. Where else has an inscription of this same monk been found?

(A) Mathura
(B) Sanchi
(C) Amaravati
(D) Kausambi

85. Given below are two statements.

Statement I : The Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV is known for its highly poetic but historically unreliable praise of a weak ruler.

Statement II : The plate records a grant of land in the modern-day Sangli district of

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4. Pulakesin II

Select the correct answer from the codes below:
(A) 3, 1, 2, 4
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 2, 3, 1, 4

69. The Nasik inscription of Gautamiputra Satakarni's mother, Gautami Balasri (recorded by Pulmavi), gives her son the epithet 'Ekabamhana'. What does this title mean?
(A) The Only Protector of Brahmanas
(B) The First among Brahmanas
(C) The Slayer of Brahmanas
(D) The Worshipper of Brahma

70. The historical value of epigraphy lies in its ability to provide which type of information that is often missing from literary sources?
(A) Precise dates and genealogies
(B) Mythological stories and legends
(C) Philosophical and metaphysical debates
(D) Fictional narratives and courtly gossip

71. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Allahabad Prashasti of Samudragupta does not mention any of his defeats.
Reason (R) : As a prashasti, its primary purpose was to eulogise the king and celebrate his victories, not to provide a balanced historical account.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

72. The Khalimpur copper plate of Dharmapala records the grant of a village for the maintenance of a temple of which deity?
(A) Vishnu
(B) Shiva
(C) A non-sectarian deity, a temple of Narayana.
(D) Buddha

73. Consider the following statements regarding the Sanjan copper plates of Amoghavarsha I:
(a) They were issued from the capital city of Manyakheta.
(b) They record a grant to a Brahmana for performing certain rites.
(c) They praise Amoghavarsha for his patronage of Jainism.
(d) They contain a genealogy tracing the Rashtrakuta lineage from the epic hero Yayati.
(e) The inscription was composed by the king himself.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a), (b), and (c) only
(B) (a), (b), and (d) only
(C) (c), (d), and (e) only
(D) (a), (c), and (e) only

74. Which one of the following Hellenistic kings is NOT mentioned in Asoka's Rock Edict XIII as a recipient of his Dhamma-vijaya?
(A) Antiyoka (Antiochus II of Syria)
(B) Turamaya (Ptolemy II of Egypt)
(C) Antikini (Antigonus Gonatas of Macedonia)
(D) Eucratides (Eucratides I of Bactria)

75. What is the primary subject matter of the Truvalangad copper plates of Rajendra Chola I?
(A) A record of land survey and revenue settlement.
(B) A detailed eulogy and genealogy of the Chola dynasty.
(C) The establishment of a hospital and medical school.
(D) A treaty with the king of Srivijaya.

76. The Tharsapalli copper plates are written in which script and language?
(A) Brahmi script and Prakrit language
(B) Vattezhuttu script with Tamil language and Grantha script for Sanskrit portions
(C) Nagari script and Sanskrit language
(D) Kharosthi script and Gandhari Prakrit

77. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Composer/Poet)
P. Harishena
Q. Ravikirti
R. Vasula

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94. What is the primary content of Ushavadata's inscription in Nasik Cave 10?
(A) A record of his conquest of the Satavahana territory.
(B) A long list of his charitable donations and public works.
(C) A eulogy of his father-in-law, Nahapana.
(D) A philosophical treatise on Buddhist doctrine.

95. Consider the following details from Asokan edicts:
(a) Rock Edict II mentions medical missions for men and animals.
(b) Rock Edict XII appeals for sectarian tolerance.
(c) Rock Edict XIII details the Kalinga war and mentions Hellenistic kings.
(d) The Bairat Edict shows Asoka's personal faith in Buddhism.
(e) The Lumbini Edict records a tax reduction for Buddha's birthplace.
Which of the above statements are correctly stated?
(A) (a), (b) and (c) only
(B) (a), (c), d and e only
(C) (b), (d) and (e) only
(D) All of the above are correct.

96. What language is predominantly used in the Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela?
(A) Sanskrit
(B) Pali
(C) A form of Prakrit
(D) Tamil

97. The expression 'Samasta-loka-samsuyamana-sasana' (whose rule was praised by the entire world), found in the Sangli plates, refers to which Rashtrakuta king in a highly exaggerated manner?
(A) Amoghavarsha I
(B) Govinda IV
(C) Indra III
(D) Krishna III

98. The Gwalior prashasti of Bhoja attributes the origin of the Pratihara family to which epic hero, who acted as a 'pratihara' (door-keeper) to his elder brother?
(A) Arjuna
(B) Bhima
(C) Lakshmana
(D) Bharata

99. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Bhitri pillar inscription provides the first epigraphic reference to the Pushyamitras as enemies of the Guptas.
Statement II : The inscription is primarily a record of the installation of an image of the god Vishnu.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

100. The policy of 'grahanamokshanugraha' (capturing, then releasing and favouring) was applied by Samudragupta towards which group of kings mentioned in his Allahabad prashasti?
(A) The kings of Aryavarta
(B) The kings of Dakshinapatha
(C) The frontier tribal states
(D) The foreign rulers like the Sakas and Kushanas

101. Which inscription is known as a 'kavya' (poem) in stone and explicitly compares its author to the great poets Kalidasa and Bharavi?
(A) Allahabad pillar inscription
(B) Aihole pillar inscription
(C) Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman
(D) Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman

102. The term 'agrahara' frequently found in copper plate inscriptions like the Khalimpur and Sanjan plates, refers to:
(A) A commercial tax levied on merchants.
(B) A village or land granted to Brahmanas, usually tax-free.
(C) A military camp.
(D) The chief queen's personal estate.

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(D) Skandagupta

121. Which of the following is a key reason why epigraphs are considered a more reliable source of history than literary texts like the Puranas?
(A) They are always written by the kings themselves.
(B) They are contemporary records and less prone to later alterations.
(C) They always provide a complete and unbiased account.
(D) They are always written in a simple and easily understandable language.

122. The Aihole inscription records that after defeating Harsha, Pulakesin II assumed which of the following titles?
(A) Maharajadhiraja
(B) Paramesvara
(C) Sakalottarapathanatha
(D) Vikramaditya

123. The phrase Kaling-adhipati (Lord of Kalinga) is associated with which king in his own inscription?
(A) Asoka
(B) Kharavela
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Rudradaman

124. The Saranath Buddha image inscription is dated in the year 81 of an unspecified era, which is generally believed to be the:
(A) Vikrama Era
(B) Saka Era
(C) Gupta Era
(D) Kushan Era initiated by Kanishka I

125. The division of Samudragupta's conquests into different categories is a distinctive feature of which inscription?
(A) Bhitri pillar inscription
(B) Eran stone inscription
(C) Gaya copper plate
(D) Allahabad pillar inscription

126. Which inscription records a grant of land with various privileges to the Christian Church of Tarsā?
(A) Sangli copper plate
(B) Sanjan copper plate
(C) Tharsapalli copper plates
(D) Truvalangad copper plates

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127. The Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja claims his ancestor Nagabhata I defeated a powerful 'Mlechchha' army. This refers to:
(A) The Huna invasion
(B) The Greek invasion
(C) The early Arab invasion of Sindh and Gujarat
(D) The Kushan army

128. Which of these inscriptions is a prashasti of a king, Yasovarman, who is otherwise almost unknown from any other historical source?
(A) Gwalior inscription
(B) Aihole inscription
(C) Mandsor inscription
(D) Khalimpur plate

129. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The study of palaeography is essential for epigraphists.
Reason (R) : Palaeography allow historians to date inscriptions that are undated based on the style and form of the characters used.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

130. Which dynasty's copper plates are known for their lengthy Sanskrit and Tamil sections, providing extensive mythical genealogies?
(A) Rashtrakuta
(B) Pala
(C) Chola
(D) Chalukya

131. Consider the following statements about the Bhitri pillar inscription of Skandagupta:
(a) It is located in the Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Mahendra mountains.
(C) It is dated in a specific regnal year of Yasovarman.
(D) It eulogises Yasovarman's victory over the Huna king Mihirakula.

112. The phrase Dhammena apavyayata, dhammena apabhadata encapsulating ethical teachings is found in the inscriptions of which ruler?
(A) Asoka
(B) Kharavela
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Rudradaman

113. The Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsha I compare the voluntary self-sacrifice of his father, Govinda III, with which mythical king?
(A) Harishchandra
(B) Shibi
(C) Yayati
(D) Rama

114. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Kharosthi script reads from right to left.
Statement II : Its direction of writing is a direct influence of its parent script, Aramaic, which also reads from right to left.
In the context of the above statements, which of the following is correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

115. The Khalimpur plate of Dharmapala is significant for the political history of early medieval India because it refers to an assembly of rulers at Kannauj where Dharmapala:
(A) Approved the consecration of Chakrayudha as the ruler of Kannauj.
(B) Was defeated by Nagabhata II.
(C) Concluded a peace treaty with the Rashtrakutas.
(D) Announced his retirement from kingship.

116. Which inscription mentions that its patron king defeated the Pallavas and forced them to take shelter in the fortress of Kanchi?
(A) Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II
(B) Sanjan copper plate of Amoghavarsha
(C) Truvalangad copper plate of Rajendra Chola
(D) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela

117. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Inscription Location)
P. Aihole
Q. Khalimpur
R. Junagadh
S. Mandsor
List II:(Modern State)
1. Gujarat
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Karnataka
4. West Bengal
Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

118. The Lumbini inscription is categorised as which type of Asokan edict?
(A) Major Rock Edict
(B) Minor Rock Edict
(C) Major Pillar Edict
(D) Minor Pillar Inscription / Commemorative Pillar Inscription

119. Which inscription provides a vivid account of a king performing renovations of canals and engaging in dance and music during peace?
(A) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela
(B) Allahabad prashasti of Samudragupta
(C) Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta
(D) Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja

120. The title 'Kaviraja' (King of Poets) is attributed to which Gupta emperor in his Allahabad pillar inscription?
(A) Chandragupta I
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Chandragupta II

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(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

140. What is the primary evidence against the indigenous origin of the Brahmi script from the Indus script?
(A) The significant chronological gap between the last Indus seals and the first Brahmi inscriptions.
(B) The fundamental difference in the nature of the scripts.
(C) The similarity of Brahmi letter forms to North Semitic scripts.
(D) All of the above.

141. Which of the following inscriptions was NOT issued by a Gupta ruler?
(A) Allahabad pillar inscription
(B) Bhitri inscription
(C) Mehrauli iron pillar inscription
(D) Aihole pillar inscription

142. The practice of issuing bilingual and biscriptal coins and inscriptions was a characteristic feature of rulers in which region?
(A) The Deep South
(B) The Gangetic Valley
(C) The Northwest
(D) The Deccan Plateau

143. The Hathigumpha inscription mentions Kharavela's patronage of which religion?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Bhagavatism
(C) Jainism
(D) Shaivism

144. Which Asokan edict is a declaration against the desire for fame and glory?
(A) Rock Edict X
(B) Rock Edict XII
(C) Rock Edict II
(D) Rock Edict XIII

145. In the Aihole inscription, Ravikirti claims to have attained fame equal to that of which two legendary Sanskrit poets?
(A) Valmiki and Vyasa
(B) Asvaghosha and Bhasa
(C) Kalidasa and Bharavi
(D) Bana and Dandin

146. Which one of the following is a characteristic of copper plate grants ('tamra-shasana')?
(A) They were public proclamations meant for the general population.
(B) They were legal documents recording a grant, intended for the recipient.
(C) They were exclusively used for recording military victories.
(D) They were always written in the local vernacular language.

147. Which inscription mentions a king who was a great patron of the Satavahanas' enemy, the Western Kshatrapas?
(A) Nasik Cave III inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi
(B) Nasik cave 10 inscription of Ushavadata
(C) Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman
(D) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela

148. Consider the following rulers and their associated inscriptions:
(a) Amoghavarsha - Sanjan copper plate
(b) Dharmapala - Khalimpur copper plate
(c) Rajendra Chola - Truvalangad copper plates
(d) Govinda IV - Sangli copper plate
Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(A) (a) and (b) only
(B) (a), (b) and (c) only
(C) (c) and (d) only
(D) All of the above are correct.

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149. The 'Besnagar Garuda Pillar Inscription' is written in which script and language?
(A) Kharosthi and Prakrit
(B) Brahmi and Sanskrit
(C) Brahmi and Prakrit
(D) Greek and Prakrit

150. What specific administrative act is recorded in the Lumbini pillar inscription of Asoka?
(A) Appointment of a new governor.
(B) Declaration of the area as a sanctuary for animals.
(C) The reduction of the tax 'bali' and fixing the share 'bhaga' at one-eighth.
(D) The establishment of a new monastery.

(b) It mentions Skandagupta's conflict with the Pushyamitras.
(c) It records his victory over the Hunas.
(d) It records the installation of an image of Vishnu and the grant of a village.
(e) It is written in Prakrit and Kharosthi script.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a), (b), (c) and (d) only
(B) (b), (c), (d) and (e) only
(C) (a), (b) and (e) only
(D) All of the above are correct.

132. The reference to a 'Yavana' (Greek) governor named Tushaspha appointed by Asoka is found in which inscription?
(A) Asokan Rock Edict V
(B) Besnagar Garuda Pillar Inscription
(C) Junagadh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman
(D) Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela

133. The Khalimpur copper plate records a land grant made by Dharmapala at his victorious camp located at:
(A) Pataliputra
(B) Kannauj
(C) Gauda
(D) Munger

134. Arrange the following inscriptions in chronological order of their creation:
1. Tharsapalli copper plates
2. Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription
3. Swat relic casket inscription
4. Asokan Rock Edict II
Select the correct answer from the codes below:
(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 2, 4, 3, 1
(C) 4, 3, 2, 1
(D) 3, 4, 1, 2

135. Which statement regarding the language and script of Asokan edicts is the most accurate?
(A) All edicts are in Sanskrit and Brahmi script.
(B) The edicts are exclusively in Prakrit and Brahmi script.
(C) The edicts primarily use Prakrit, but the scripts vary regionally between Brahmi, Kharosthi, Greek, and Aramaic.
(D) All edicts are in Pali language and a single, uniform script.

136. Which inscription records the achievements of a king who belonged to the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga?
(A) Nasik cave inscription
(B) Hathigumpha inscription
(C) Junagadh rock inscription
(D) Bhitri pillar inscription

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137. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman is a panegyric that greatly exaggerates the king's power and influence.
Statement II : The composer of the prashasti was Ravikirti, the same poet who wrote the Aihole inscription.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

138. The Sanjan plates were issued from a camp on the banks of the Tapi river during a campaign in which region?
(A) Bengal
(B) Gujarat
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Kalinga

139. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Ruler)
P. Asoka
Q. Samudragupta
R. Gautamiputra Satakarni
S. Mihir Bhoja
List II:(A Title/Epithet from Inscriptions)
1. Lichchhavi-dauhitra
2. Adivaraha
3. Devanampiya
4. Ekabamhana
Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

103. The Swat relic casket inscription of a Meridarkh (a Greek title for a district officer) named Theodorus is important for understanding the spread of which religion in the Gandhara region?
(A) Jainism
(B) Zoroastrianism
(C) Bhagavatism
(D) Buddhism

104. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The inscriptions of Ushavadata, son-in-law of Nahapana, provide detailed insight into the economy of the Western Kshatrapa kingdom.
Reason (R) : They list numerous donations of cash, land, and cows, and mention investments with guilds from which the interest was used for charity.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

105. Which of the following statements about the development of Brahmi script is correct?
(A) It has always been written from left to right.
(B) It is a purely alphabetical script with no vowel signs.
(C) It is an alphasyllabic script with inherent vowels.
(D) It ceased to be used after the Mauryan period.

106. Which ruler is described in their inscription as having exterminated the Kshatriyas and being the destroyer of Sakas, Yavanas, and Pahlavas?
(A) Kharavela in the Hathigumpha inscription
(B) Rudradaman I in the Junagadh inscription
(C) Gautamiputra Satakarni in the Nasik inscription
(D) Samudragupta in the Allahabad inscription

107. Which of the following inscriptions is a private donative record rather than a royal prashasti or edict?
(A) Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II
(B) Lucknow Museum Jain image inscription of the time of Huviska
(C) Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta
(D) Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja

108. The Truvalangad plates of Rajendra Chola are written on copper sheets held together by a massive ring. What is typically depicted on the seal of such Chola copper plate grants?
(A) A bull, representing the Pallava emblem they defeated.
(B) An elephant, representing their Gangetic victories.
(C) A tiger flanked by two fish, representing the Chola and Pandya emblems.
(D) A Garuda, representing their faith.

109. Consider the following statements regarding the Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman:
(a) Its location on a rock also bearing several edicts of Asoka.
(b) Its status as an early long inscription written in chaste Sanskrit.
(c) Its record of Sudarshana lake repairs without levying extra taxes.
(d) Its detailed genealogy tracing the history of the Maurya dynasty.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a) and (d) only
(B) (b) and (c) only
(C) (a), (b) and (c) only
(D) (a), (b), (c) and (d)

110. The Besnagar inscription of Heliodorus refers to himself as a 'Bhagavata' and records the erection of a 'Garuda-dhvaja' in honour of whom?
(A) Vasudeva, the God of gods
(B) Sankarshana, a Vrishni hero
(C) Gautama Buddha
(D) The Sunga king Bhagabhadra

111. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the Mandsor stone inscription of Yasovarman?
(A) It is composed in Sanskrit verse by the poet Vasula.
(B) It contains a grandiose claim of his conquests from the Himalayas to the

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151. Which of the following statements about the Allahabad pillar inscription is INCORRECT?
(A) It mentions Samudragupta receiving homage from rulers of Simhala (Sri Lanka).
(B) It describes Samudragupta as proficient in playing the lyre (veena).
(C) It provides a year-by-year account of Samudragupta's reign.
(D) It is engraved on a pillar which was originally erected by Asoka.

152. The title Lord of the Dakshinapatha (Dakshinapathapati) was a title held by rulers of which dynasty?
(A) Gupta
(B) Maurya
(C) Kushan
(D) Satavahana

153. The Tripartite Struggle for control over Kannauj is a major theme associated with which three inscriptions?
(A) Aihole, Bhitri, Mandsor
(B) Khalimpur, Sanjan, Gwalior
(C) Hathigumpha, Junagadh, Besnagar
(D) Truvalangad, Sangli, Tharsapalli

154. Which inscription credits a king with renovating the Sudarshana Lake without forced labour (vishti)?
(A) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela
(B) Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman
(C) Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta
(D) Nasik inscription of Ushavadata

155. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Tharsapalli copper plates are an important source for Christian history in India.
Statement II : They document a land grant and various privileges given to the local church by the ruler of Venad.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

156. What does the term 'palaeography' literally mean?
(A) Study of ancient writing
(B) Study of stones
(C) Study of old places
(D) Study of inscriptions

157. The Gwalior prashasti of the Pratihara king Bhoja is dedicated to which deity?
(A) Shiva
(B) Vishnu
(C) Surya
(D) Devi (Goddess)

158. Which of the following inscriptions gives the most detailed account of the regions and rulers defeated by Samudragupta?
(A) The Eran Inscription
(B) The Gaya Copper Plate
(C) The Allahabad Pillar Inscription
(D) The Nalanda Copper Plate

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159. The historical information in the Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II ends with the event of:
(A) His coronation
(B) His victory over Harshavardhana
(C) His defeat of the Pallava king Mahendravarman I
(D) His embassy to the Persian king Khusrau II

160. The Nasik Prashasti of Gautami Balasri indicates that:
(A) Gautamiputra Satakarni was still alive.
(B) Pulumavi was celebrating his grandfather.
(C) The inscription was a posthumous eulogy for Gautamiputra Satakarni.
(D) Gautami Balasri was the ruling queen.

161. Which of the following is a key limitation of epigraphy as a source of history?
(A) The inscriptions are often forged and unreliable.
(B) They are difficult to decipher and translate accurately.
(C) They present an official perspective and rarely reflect common people.

(D) They are mostly religious in nature and contain no political information.

162. The term 'Mahakshatrapa', used by rulers like Rudradaman, indicates their original political status as:
(A) independent emperors
(B) Feudatories or governors of a higher power
(C) Vassals of the Mauryan empire
(D) Priests who became kings

163. The Khalimpur plate refers to Gopala being elected king by the 'prakritis'. This is a rare reference to:
(A) A hereditary succession
(B) A divine appointment
(C) A contractual or elective monarchy
(D) A military coup

164. The Hathigumpha inscription is incised on the rock face of a cave in which hill range?
(A) Barabar Hills
(B) Udayagiri-Khandagiri Hills
(C) Rajgir Hills
(D) Vindhya Hills

165. What script was used to write the Asokan edicts found at Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra?
(A) Brahmi
(B) Greek
(C) Aramaic
(D) Kharosthi

166. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Bhitri inscription is the only record mentioning a conflict between Guptas and Pushyamitras.
Statement II : The inscription was set up to commemorate Skandagupta's performance of an Asvamedha sacrifice.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

167. Who was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty who overthrew the Chalukyas of Badami?
(A) Amoghavarsha I
(B) Krishna I
(C) Dantidurga
(D) Govinda III

168. The Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman is a royal 'prashasti'. What is the primary purpose of a prashasti?
(A) To record a land grant
(B) To announce a new law
(C) To eulogize and praise a king's achievements
(D) To document a trade agreement

169. Which Chola ruler's military achievements are celebrated in the Truvalangad plates?
(A) Rajaraja I
(B) Rajendra I
(C) Kulottunga I
(D) Aditya I

170. The 'Tarsāpalli' of the Tharsapalli copper plates refers to a:
(A) Tax
(B) Village
(C) Christian Church
(D) Trading Guild

171. The Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV is considered an example of 'decadent' court poetry because:
(A) It is written in Prakrit instead of Sanskrit.
(B) It contains unbelievable praise for an otherwise ineffectual king.
(C) It has many grammatical errors.
(D) It only records mundane administrative details.

172. The title 'Aparanta-mahi-pati' (Lord of the Western Coast) is most suitably associated with:
(A) Palas
(B) Cholas
(C) Satavahanas and Western Kshatrapas
(D) Guptas

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173. The Saranath Buddha image inscription is a key evidence for the activity of which school of art?
(A) Gandhara school
(B) Amaravati school
(C) Mathura school
(D) Sunga school

174. What is the most widely accepted scholarly view today regarding the origin of writing in India?
(A) Writing began with Asoka, who invented the Brahmi script.
(B) Writing existed during the Indus Valley, disappeared, and was later borrowed or reinvented.
(C) The Indus script evolved directly into the Brahmi script without any break.
(D) The Brahmi script was brought to India by Alexander the Great.

175. What important economic principle is highlighted in Asoka's Lumbini inscription?
(A) The state's right to collect taxes as it wishes.
(B) The king's ability to grant tax exemptions as a form of patronage.
(C) The abolition of all taxes on agricultural land.
(D) The introduction of a new currency system.

176. The phrase 'Kaliyuga-raja-vrittam' is criticised in which Rashtrakuta inscription?
(A) Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV
(B) Samangad plates of Dantidurga
(C) Sanjan copper plate of Amoghavarsha
(D) Ellora Dashavatara cave inscription

177. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : The Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II is of great literary and historical importance.
Reason (R) : Composed in high-quality Sanskrit verse, it provides a detailed account of the king's victories and is precisely dated.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

178. What is the general direction of writing for the Brahmi script?
(A) Left to right
(B) Right to left
(C) Boustrophedon (alternating lines)
(D) Top to bottom

179. Which inscription describes its patron, Samudragupta, as equal to the gods Kubera, Varuna, Indra, and Yama?
(A) Bhitri pillar inscription
(B) Mehrauli iron pillar inscription
(C) Allahabad pillar inscription
(D) Eran inscription

180. The Bairat Minor Rock Edict shows Asoka's personal involvement with:
(A) His complete rejection of Brahmanical traditions.
(B) The deep doctrines of Buddhism.
(C) His attempt to create a new, unified Buddhist canon.
(D) His command that only specific texts should be studied.

181. The Hathigumpha inscription states that Kharavela repaired the aqueducts originally built by whom?
(A) Asoka
(B) A Nanda King
(C) Bimbisara
(D) Chandragupta Maurya

182. Which of the following is NOT an Asokan inscription?
(A) Rock Edict X
(B) Lumbini inscription
(C) Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription
(D) Minor rock edict of Bairat

183. The Nasik Prashasti of Gautami Balasri praises her son for destroying the pride of the:
(A) Mauryas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Kshatriyas
(D) Greeks

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(B) They provide a genealogy tracing their lineage from the Yadu family.
(C) They claim the Rashtrakutas were originally from Bengal.
(D) They state that the founder of the dynasty was a Brahmana.

207. The Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman is a problematic historical source because:
(A) It is badly damaged and illegible.
(B) Its composer, Vasula, is known to be unreliable.
(C) The king it praises is virtually unknown from any other source.
(D) It is written in a local dialect that is difficult to translate.

208. The Truvalangad plates begin with a long Sanskrit section before moving to the Tamil section. This bilingual format was common in:
(A) Mauryan edicts
(B) Gupta inscriptions
(C) South Indian copper plate grants
(D) Kushan religious records

209. The Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV is important for literary history as an example of:
(A) The earliest use of the Kannada language in an inscription.
(B) A highly elaborate style of Sanskrit prose in the Deccan.
(C) A simple and direct style of historical reporting.
(D) The influence of Persian court poetry on Indian inscriptions.

210. The Tharsapalli copper plates are a testament to the pluralism of which region in the 9th century?
(A) The Gangetic Plain
(B) The Malabar Coast (Kerala)
(C) The Coromandel Coast (Tamil Nadu)
(D) The Konkan Coast (Maharashtra)

211. If a historian finds a previously unknown stone inscription from the 3rd century BCE in central India, what script would they expect it to be written in?
(A) Kharosthi
(B) Greek
(C) Brahmi
(D) Nagari

212. Which Asokan edict is most concerned with the principles of governance and the welfare of all?
(A) Rock Edict VI
(B) Rock Edict XII
(C) Rock Edict XIII
(D) Rock Edict X

213. The Besnagar pillar inscription is significant because it shows an Indo-Greek:
(A) Conquering the Sunga kingdom.
(B) Adopting Buddhism and setting up a stupa.
(C) Acting as an ambassador and adopting Bhagavatism.
(D) Introducing Greek coinage in India.

214. The Hathigumpha inscription is notable for being the only major source on its patron king. This makes its contents:
(A) Easy to verify from other sources.
(B) Important but also difficult to corroborate independently.
(C) Unreliable and likely fictional.
(D) A secondary source written much later.

215. The Nasik inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi is a prashasti for his father. This implies that the achievements listed belong to:
(A) Pulmavi himself
(B) Gautamiputra Satakarni
(C) The founder of the dynasty, Simuka
(D) The Sunga king Pushyamitra

216. Given below are two statements about the Swat relic casket inscription.
Statement I : It is written in the Brahmi script and Sanskrit language.
Statement II : It records the establishment of relics of the Buddha by a Greek administrator.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

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(A) Are the first copper plates issued by a Chola king.
(B) Provide an exhaustive genealogy for Chola records.
(C) Record the conquest of Sri Lanka in its entirety.
(D) Document the establishment of the Chola navy.

197. Which of the following is a negative or exception-based question type often used in academic exams?
(A) Which of the following statements is correct?
(B) Which of the following is NOT a feature of...?
(C) What is the primary cause of...?
(D) Arrange the following in chronological order.

198. The study of epigraphy helps to corroborate, supplement, and sometimes contradict information from what other major source?
(A) Archaeological excavations
(B) Numismatics
(C) Foreign travelers' accounts
(D) Literary sources

199. While the Indus script is undeciphered, the earliest deciphered widespread script is:
(A) Kharosthi
(B) Brahmi
(C) Greek
(D) Aramaic

200. What is the language of the Nasik Cave III inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi?
(A) Sanskrit
(B) Prakrit
(C) Tamil
(D) A mix of Prakrit and Sanskrit

201. Kushan inscriptions from the time of Kanishka and Huviska demonstrate what aspect of the empire?
(A) The decline of Indian religions.
(B) The Kushan policy of religious patronage to Indian faiths.
(C) The exclusive promotion of Zoroastrianism.
(D) A period of religious conflict and persecution.

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202. Which inscription famously describes Samudragupta with a body covered by the marks of a hundred wounds?
(A) Bhitri Inscription
(B) Aihole Inscription
(C) Allahabad Pillar Inscription
(D) Mandsor Inscription

203. The fact that the Allahabad pillar contains edicts of Asoka demonstrates:
(A) The Gupta's deliberate destruction of Mauryan monuments.
(B) The continuous importance of certain locations and monuments.
(C) A coincidence with no historical significance.
(D) That Harishena copied the style of Asokan edicts.

204. As a 'prashasti', the Gwalior inscription's account is likely to be:
(A) Completely objective and factual.
(B) Focused on their defeats and weaknesses.
(C) Eulogistic and possibly exaggerated.
(D) A fictional narrative.

205. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Khalimpur Copper Plate of Dharmapala is written in a proto-Nagari script.
Statement II : The plate records a land grant to a temple of Narayana and mentions Dharmapala's father Gopala.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
(C) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(D) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

206. What is the most significant aspect of the Sanjan copper plates for understanding Rashtrakuta origins?
(A) They link the dynasty to the epic hero Arjuna.

184. Which inscription records the establishment of a relic of the Buddha by a Greek official?
(A) Besnagar pillar inscription
(B) Swat relic casket inscription
(C) Junagadh inscription
(D) Lucknow museum Jain image inscription

185. The Lucknow museum Jain image inscription is a valuable source for the history of Jainism under which empire?
(A) Mauryan Empire
(B) Gupta Empire
(C) Kushan Empire
(D) Satavahana Empire

186. Which ruler's inscription is known for its pure and ornate Sanskrit, setting a precedent for future royal prashastis?
(A) Asoka
(B) Kharavela
(C) Rudradaman I
(D) Vasishtaputra Pulmavi

187. Given below are two statements.
Statement I : The Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta is a posthumous record set up by his successor.
Statement II : The inscription records Skandagupta's victories over the Pushyamitras and Hunas during his own lifetime.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

188. The Aihole inscription is located in a temple dedicated to which religion?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Vaishnavism
(D) Jainism

189. Which inscription mentions a king who adopted the title 'Adivaraha'?
(A) Dharmapala
(B) Amoghavarsha
(C) Mihir Bhoja
(D) Rajendra Chola

190. Which dynasty is praised for having made the Kanarese country, its beloved?
(A) The Cholas in the Truvalangad plates.
(B) The Palas in the Khalimpur plate.
(C) The Rashtrakutas in the Sanjan plates.
(D) The Chalukyas in the Aihole inscription.

191. The Sangli copper plate was issued by Govinda IV of which dynasty?
(A) Pala
(B) Pratihara
(C) Rashtrakuta
(D) Chola

192. Which Asokan edict speaks about 'sāmavāya' (concord) among religious sects?
(A) Rock Edict II
(B) Rock Edict X
(C) Rock Edict XII
(D) Rock Edict XIII

193. Information that Pushyagupta constructed the Sudarshana lake comes from which later inscription?
(A) The Asokan edicts at Girnar
(B) The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman
(C) The Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela
(D) The Allahabad prashasti of Samudragupta

194. The Besnagar inscription is a crucial testament to the early development of which religious sect?
(A) Shaivism
(B) Buddhism
(C) Jainism
(D) Bhagavatism (early Vaishnavism)

195. Which inscription mentions a ruler of the Aulikara family of Malwa?
(A) Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja
(B) Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman
(C) Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta
(D) Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II

196. The Truvalangad plates are significant for Chola history because they:

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(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

217. The Aihole prashasti's claim that its composer Ravikirti attained the fame of Kalidasa and Bharavi is an example of:
(A) A verifiable historical fact.
(B) A poet's conventional boast.
(C) A direct quote from another text.
(D) A religious statement.

218. The term matsyanyaya in the Khalimpur plate is a political metaphor. What does it describe?
(A) A period of prosperity and abundant fish.
(B) A state of political anarchy where the strong destroy the weak.
(C) A naval battle.
(D) A legal code related to fishing rights.

219. The Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsha I were discovered in which modern Indian state?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Tamil Nadu

220. The Truvalangad plates and other Chola grants are crucial for understanding the concept of 'Brahmadeya'. What was a Brahmadeya?
(A) A tax paid to Brahmanas.
(B) A village or land granted to Brahmanas.
(C) A temple dedicated to Brahma.
(D) A royal sacrifice performed by Brahmanas.

221. Which of the following is NOT a reason why epigraphy is considered a primary source for ancient Indian history?
(A) The inscriptions are often contemporary to the events they describe.
(B) They provide information on administration and economy.
(C) They are often precisely dated.
(D) They provide a complete and unbiased history of the common people.

222. The origin of the Kharosthi script from Aramaic is strongly suggested by:
(A) Its use in Southern India.
(B) The shape of letters and its right-to-left direction.
(C) The fact that it was invented by Asoka.
(D) Its development from the Indus Valley script.

223. Which Asokan edict outlines his policy of 'Dhamma-vijaya' (conquest by righteousness)?
(A) Rock Edict II
(B) Rock Edict X
(C) Rock Edict XII
(D) Rock Edict XIII

224. Which inscription provides the first clear epigraphic evidence for the Puranic-style genealogy of the Guptas?
(A) Allahabad Pillar Inscription
(B) Bhitri Pillar Inscription
(C) The Poona copper-plate of Prabhavatigupta
(D) Gwalior inscription of Mihir Bhoja

225. The Mandsor inscription that praises the guild of silk-weavers was issued during the reign of which Gupta king?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Skandagupta

226. Which of the following inscriptions is written on copper plates?
(A) Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman
(B) Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta
(C) Aihole inscription of Pulkesin II
(D) Khalimpur plate of Dharmapala

227. Given below are two statements about the Gwalior inscription.
Statement I : It traces the origin of the Pratihara dynasty to the epic hero Lakshmana.
Statement II : The main purpose of the inscription is to record a land grant to a Buddhist monastery.
Which of the following is correct?
(A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

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(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

228. The Sangli plate of Govinda IV is an example of which type of epigraphic record?
(A) A royal edict proclaiming a new law.
(B) A eulogy carved on a temple wall.
(C) A copper-plate grant recording the donation of a village.
(D) A private votive inscription on a stupa.

229. The language of the Truvalangad plates demonstrates the use of:
(A) Only Tamil
(B) Only Sanskrit
(C) Sanskrit for the prashasti and Tamil for the operative grant.
(D) Prakrit for the entire inscription.

230. Which king is associated with the Chedi dynasty and the Mahameghavahana family?
(A) Asoka
(B) Rudradaman
(C) Kharavela
(D) Samudragupta

231. The term 'vishti' (forced labour), which Rudradaman claims not to have used, indicates that:
(A) Forced labour was an unknown concept at the time.
(B) Forced labour was a common form of state exaction.
(C) 'Vishti' was a voluntary contribution by the people.
(D) The use of 'vishti' was reserved only for military purposes.

232. The installation of a Buddha image at Sarnath and a Bodhisattva image at Kausambi by the monk Bala suggests:
(A) The decline of the Gandhara school of art.
(B) The movement of monks and artisans under Kushan rule.
(C) A conflict between Buddhism and Jainism.
(D) The first use of stone for images.

233. In the Allahabad Prashasti, the policy of 'Sarva-kara-dana-ajna-karana-pranamagamana' was applied to:
(A) The kings of Dakshinapatha
(B) The kings of Aryavarta
(C) The frontier kingdoms and republican tribes
(D) The foreign kings

234. The detail in the Bhitri inscription of Skandagupta spending a night on the bare earth is rare in:
(A) Donative inscriptions
(B) Votive inscriptions
(C) Formal royal prashastis
(D) Legal documents

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235. The Aihole prashasti's composer, Ravikirti, was a follower of which religion?
(A) Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Vaishnavism
(D) Jainism

236. Which inscription helps to fix the initial date of the Saka Era?
(A) Nasik inscription of Ushavadata
(B) Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman
(C) Saranath inscription of Kanishka
(D) Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman

237. The Sanjan plates were issued by Amoghavarsha I, who was known for his patronage of:
(A) Buddhism
(B) Shaivism
(C) Jainism
(D) Ajivikism

238. The reference to Rajendra Chola year 6 for the Truvalangad plates is an example of:
(A) Dating by a universal era like Saka or Vikrama.
(B) Dating by the regnal year of the ruling king.
(C) Dating by a cyclical era like the 60-year Jupiter cycle.
(D) Dating by a local, regional era.

239. The Tharsapalli grant grants the church guild status. This demonstrates:

(A) The decline of the guild system.
(B) The power of religious institutions in commercial life.
(C) The state's complete control over all economic activity.
(D) The absence of a monetary economy.

240. What is the primary script from which Devanagari ultimately evolved?
(A) Kharosthi
(B) Aramaic
(C) Brahmi
(D) Indus Script

241. Given below are two statements, one is labelled as Assertion (A) and the other is labelled as Reason (R).
Assertion (A) : Asokan edicts are a unique source for the Mauryan period.
Reason (R) : They provide insight into the king's personal philosophy and administrative policies in his own words.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

242. The title 'Samrat' is used in the Hathigumpha inscription for Kharavela, indicating his status as:
(A) A feudatory chief
(B) A provincial governor
(C) An imperial sovereign
(D) A religious leader

243. Consider the following statements about Rudradaman's Junagadh inscription:
(a) It is written in a flawless, high-flown Sanskrit prose.
(b) It mentions his matrimonial alliance with the Satavahanas.
(c) It was composed by the poet Harishena.
(d) It records the repair of the Sudarshana lake.
(e) It is written in the Kharosthi script.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) (a), (b) and (d) only
(B) (c), (d) and (e) only
(C) (a), (c) and (e) only
(D) (b), (c) and (d) only

244. The Nasik Prashasti describes Gautamiputra Satakarni as 'ti-samuda-toya-pita-vahana'. What does this epithet mean?
(A) He who has a million vehicles.
(B) He whose horses have drunk the water of the three seas.
(C) He who has defeated the lord of the three seas.
(D) He who has offered water to the three seas.

245. The Bhitri inscription is a key source for the history of which Gupta king?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Kumaragupta I
(D) Skandagupta

246. Match List I with List II.
List I:(Inscription Type)
P. Royal Edict on morality
Q. Royal Prashasti of conquests
R. Donative record by a royal relative
S. Grant to a non-Brahmanical religion
List II:(Prime Example)
1. Allahabad Pillar Inscription
2. Asokan Rock Edict XII
3. Tharsapalli Copper Plates
4. Nasik inscription of Ushavadata
Select the correct answer from the options given below:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

247. The term 'Devakula', found in some Kushan inscriptions, refers to what?
(A) A royal temple or shrine for deceased rulers.
(B) A type of tax.
(C) The king's council of ministers.
(D) A school for priests.

248. The Khalimpur Plate is a 'Jayaskandhavara' grant. What does this term signify?
(A) A grant made from a victorious army camp.
(B) A grant made to a victorious general.
(C) A grant made on the occasion of a king's coronation.

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(D) A grant of land that was captured in a war.

249. Arrange the following composers of prashastis in chronological order:
1. Harishena
2. Ravikirti
3. Vasula
4. The composer of the Khalimpur Plate

Select the correct answer from the codes below:
(A) 1, 2, 3, 4
(B) 1, 3, 2, 4
(C) 2, 1, 3, 4
(D) 3, 1, 4, 2

250. The primary value of the Sangli plates of Govinda IV and the Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman is that they:
(A) Serve as examples of royal propaganda and literary styles.
(B) Provide a perfectly accurate and balanced account of their reigns.
(C) Are the only sources for the economic history of their time.
(D) Contain detailed information about the lives of common people.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Epigraphy, as a primary source for the reconstruction of Indian history, holds a position of paramount importance, often providing data unavailable in literary traditions. Inscriptions, being contemporary records engraved on durable materials like stone and metal, offer a high degree of authenticity and are less prone to the interpolations and corruptions that affect textual sources over time. The study of these records, known as epigraphy, illuminates various facets of the past, including political boundaries, administrative structures, dynastic genealogies, and socio-economic conditions. For instance, royal edicts and land grant charters not only delineate the extent of an empire but also reveal details about the prevailing taxation system, land tenure, and the state's relationship with religious institutions. The antiquity of writing in India itself is a subject of scholarly debate, with the undeciphered script of the Harappan civilization representing the earliest evidence. However, for the historical period, the emergence of decipherable scripts like Brahmi and Kharosthi marks a watershed moment, enabling direct access to the voices of the past. The information gleaned from inscriptions often serves to corroborate, contradict, or supplement accounts found in literary works, thereby facilitating a more critical and nuanced understanding of Indian history.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the passage, what is the principal advantage of epigraphic sources over literary traditions for historical reconstruction?
(A) They provide more detailed narratives about royal court life.
(B) They possess greater authenticity due to their contemporaneous nature and durable medium.
(C) They are more widely available across the subcontinent.
(D) They exclusively focus on the history of common people rather than elites.

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252. The passage suggests that the study of epigraphy contributes to our understanding of all the following aspects of history, EXCEPT:
(A) The evolution of philosophical doctrines.
(B) The structure of past administrative systems.
(C) The nature of land ownership and taxation.
(D) The geographical extent of ancient polities.

253. What is the significance of the emergence of Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts as mentioned in the text?
(A) It marked the beginning of the use of metal for writing.
(B) It provided the first evidence of writing in the Indian subcontinent.
(C) It enabled direct historical interpretation from decipherable written records of the period.
(D) It proved the foreign origin of all Indian writing systems.

254. Based on the passage, what is the role of epigraphic evidence in relation to literary sources?
(A) To exclusively replace literary sources as they are inherently unreliable.

(B) To provide a parallel but entirely separate narrative of history.
(C) To confirm that literary sources are always accurate historical documents.
(D) To act as a tool for verification, supplementation, or correction of textual accounts.

255. The passage implies that land grant charters are particularly valuable for reconstructing which aspect of history?
(A) Military strategies and conquests.
(B) Dynastic chronologies and successions.
(C) Socio-economic and state-religion relationships.
(D) The development of script and language.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The origin and development of the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts are central to the study of Indian palaeography. Various theories have been proposed to explain their genesis, creating a rich field of academic debate. Regarding Brahmi, the script from which most modern Indian scripts have evolved, one prominent set of theories suggests a foreign origin, tracing its lineage to West-Asiatic scripts like Aramaic or Phoenician. Proponents of this view point to certain typological similarities in letterforms. Conversely, a strong counter-argument posits an indigenous origin for Brahmi, suggesting it developed independently within India, possibly evolving from the earlier, as-yet-undeciphered Harappan script or from geometric symbols. The systematic and phonetic perfection of Brahmi from its earliest appearance in Asokan edicts is often cited as evidence for a sophisticated indigenous development. In contrast, the origin of Kharosthi is less contentious. There is a general scholarly consensus that Kharosthi, which was primarily used in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent, was derived from the Aramaic script. This is supported by its right-to-left writing direction, similar to Aramaic, and the clear resemblance of many of its characters. Its development was likely facilitated by the administrative needs of the Achaemenid Empire, which controlled parts of northwestern India and used Aramaic as an official language.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. Which of the following represents a key argument for the indigenous origin of the Brahmi script, as per the passage?
(A) The script's resemblance to Phoenician letterforms.
(B) Its highly systematic and phonetic nature at its first appearance.
(C) The discovery of Brahmi inscriptions outside of India.
(D) Its right-to-left direction of writing.

257. According to the text, the origin of the Kharosthi script is generally attributed to:
(A) An evolution from the Harappan script.
(B) An independent invention in the Gandhara region.
(C) A modification of the Brahmi script.
(D) A derivation from the Aramaic script.

258. What key difference between Brahmi and Kharosthi is highlighted in the passage regarding their origins?
(A) Brahmi's origin is a subject of intense debate, while Kharosthi's origin has broader scholarly consensus.
(B) Brahmi was used for religious texts, while Kharosthi was used for administration.
(C) Brahmi has a widely accepted foreign origin, while Kharosthi's origin is debated.
(D) Brahmi was written from right-to-left, while Kharosthi was written from left-to-right.

259. The passage suggests a connection between the Achaemenid Empire and the development of the Kharosthi script based on what factor?
(A) The Achaemenids' patronage of Buddhist art in Gandhara.
(B) The discovery of Kharosthi inscriptions within the Persian heartland.
(C) The use of Aramaic as an administrative language in their territories.
(D) The Achaemenid promotion of an indigenous Indian script.

260. What can be inferred about the geographical prevalence of the Kharosthi script from the passage?

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the Satavahanas, the Magadhan kingdom, and Greek rulers, as well as his patronage of Jainism. The inscription highlights his role in renovating canals, his administrative measures, and his performance of grand ceremonies, making it an invaluable, albeit eulogistic, source for the history of Kalinga and Jainism after the Mauryas.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is the primary significance of the Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription?
(A) It marks the first use of Sanskrit in an official inscription.
(B) It details the military achievements of the Sunga dynasty.
(C) It provides evidence of a Greek ambassador's devotion to the Bhagavata cult of Vasudeva.
(D) It is the earliest known Jaina inscription in Central India.

272. The Hathigumpha inscription is a major source for the history of which king and his religious affiliation?
(A) Samudragupta and his patronage of Vaishnavism.
(B) Kharavela and his patronage of Jainism.
(C) Asoka and his propagation of Buddhist Dhamma.
(D) Rudradaman and his support for Vedic rituals.

273. According to the passage, Heliodorus, who erected the Besnagar pillar, was an ambassador from which king?
(A) Demetrius
(B) Menander
(C) Apollodotus
(D) Antialcidas

274. A key feature of the Hathigumpha inscription, as described in the text, is its:
(A) Detailed, year-by-year narrative of the king's reign.
(B) Brevity and focus on a single religious donation.
(C) Use of the Kharosthi script to detail trade routes.
(D) Condemnation of all forms of military conflict.

275. The two inscriptions discussed in the passage, Besnagar and Hathigumpha, collectively illustrate what aspect of the post-Mauryan period?
(A) The universal decline of religious patronage.
(B) The political unification of India under a single dynasty.
(C) The growing prominence and royal patronage of non-Buddhist indigenous faiths like Vaishnavism and Jainism.
(D) The complete disappearance of Greek influence in India.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The inscriptions from the Western Deccan and Gujarat region during the early centuries CE are indispensable for understanding the political contest between the Western Kshatrapas and the Satavahanas. The Ushavadata inscription in Nasik cave 10, belonging to the son-in-law of the Kshatrapa king Nahapana, is a detailed record of extensive donations. Written in Prakrit, it lists numerous acts of piety and charity by Ushavadata, including donations of cows, gold, and villages to Brahmins, and the provision of public utilities like ferries and shelters, reflecting a policy of public beneficence. A counterpoint is the Nasik cave III inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulumavi, issued in the 19th year of his reign. It records the grant of a village, previously held by Ushavadata, to Buddhist monks, symbolically reasserting Satavahana authority over territory captured from the Kshatrapas. Dominating this regional history is the Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman I, a landmark epigraph for being one of the earliest extensive records in classical Sanskrit. It eulogizes Rudradaman's military victories, including his defeat of the Satavahana king Satakarni, and famously details the repair of the Sudarshana lake, originally built by the Mauryas, which he undertook without imposing extra taxes on his subjects.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What is the key historical significance of the Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman?
(A) It is a major early example of an extensive inscription written in classical Sanskrit.

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records that the king, in the 20th year of his reign, visited the site and, as a mark of reverence, made the village of Lumbini free of taxes (ubalike) and liable to pay only an eighth share (atthabhagiye) of the produce, a considerable reduction. This epigraph serves as crucial corroborative evidence for the traditional identification of Lumbini as the Buddha's nativity site and offers a concrete example of Mauryan fiscal policy and royal patronage. Similarly, the Minor Rock Edict of Bairat (located in Rajasthan) provides a unique window into Asoka's personal faith. In this edict, Asoka addresses the Buddhist Sangha, professes his deep reverence for the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha, and recommends a specific list of seven Buddhist texts for study by monks, nuns, and lay followers. This inscription is distinct from his public Dhamma proclamations, offering a more intimate glimpse of his personal commitment to Buddhism and his role as a patron of the faith.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What is the primary historical importance of the Lumbini pillar inscription?
(A) It lists the seven Buddhist texts recommended by Asoka.
(B) It confirms the location of Buddha's birthplace and illustrates Asoka's fiscal policies.
(C) It details Asoka's administrative reforms across the empire.
(D) It announces his conversion to Buddhism after the Kalinga war.

267. The Bairat minor rock edict is particularly significant because it:
(A) Describes Asoka's provisions for animal welfare.
(B) Reveals Asoka's personal engagement with Buddhist scriptures and the Sangha.
(C) Records a land grant to a non-Buddhist religious group.
(D) Is written in Kharosthi script, unlike his other edicts.

268. According to the Lumbini inscription, what fiscal concession did Asoka grant to the village?
(A) He declared it free of taxes and reduced its grain share to one-eighth.
(B) He made it completely exempt from all forms of tribute.
(C) He fixed the tax at one-fourth of the agricultural produce.
(D) He donated the entire village's revenue to the local Sangha.

269. The passage contrasts the Bairat edict with Asoka's other proclamations by highlighting its:
(A) Grandiose style and public nature.
(B) Focus on military achievements.
(C) More personal and faith-specific character.
(D) Location in a remote, uninhabited area.

270. What can be inferred from the details of the two inscriptions described in the passage?
(A) Asoka's interest in Buddhism was purely for political gain.
(B) The Mauryan economy was solely dependent on agricultural taxes.
(C) Asoka visited all major Buddhist pilgrimage sites during his reign.
(D) Asoka's reign was marked by both public policy pronouncements and personal acts of faith.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Post-Mauryan inscriptions provide crucial evidence for the religious and political landscape of the succeeding period. The Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription, located in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, is a testament to the rising prominence of Vaishnavism. This short but significant record states that the pillar was erected in honour of Vasudeva, the God of gods, by Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador from the court of the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila. Heliodorus describes himself as a Bhagavata, a devotee of Vasudeva, demonstrating the appeal of indigenous Indian faiths to foreign dignitaries during the Sunga period. This inscription is a landmark in the history of the Bhagavata cult. In stark contrast stands the Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela, the king of Kalinga. This lengthy and detailed inscription, found in the Udayagiri hills near Bhubaneswar, is inscribed in a Prakrit language using the Brahmi script. It provides a year-by-year account of Kharavela's reign, detailing his military campaigns against

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(B) It helps in dating an iconic sculpture from the Mathura school of art.
(C) It is the first inscription to mention the Kushan king Huvishka.
(D) It records a land grant for the maintenance of the Sarnath monastery.

283. The Lucknow museum Jain image inscription from the time of Huvishka serves as evidence for:
(A) The exclusive royal patronage of Jainism by the Kushans.
(B) The flourishing of Jainism alongside other faiths under Kushan rule.
(C) The persecution of Buddhists during Huvishka's reign.
(D) The decline of Mathura as a religious and artistic centre.

284. A common feature of many Kushan inscriptions mentioned in the text is their:
(A) Dating in a specific era, likely that of Kanishka.
(B) Use of classical Sanskrit.
(C) Exclusive focus on the military campaigns of the rulers.
(D) Location in the southern part of India.

285. What general conclusion about the Kushan period can be drawn from the inscriptions described?
(A) It was a period of religious intolerance and conflict.
(B) The Kushan rulers were uninterested in art and architecture.
(C) It was an era characterized by religious eclecticism and the patronage of multiple faiths like Buddhism and Jainism.
(D) Greek officials were prohibited from participating in Indian religious life.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The epigraphy of the Gupta period is dominated by prashastis, or eulogistic inscriptions, which are critical for constructing the political history and imperial ideology of the dynasty. The Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta, composed by his court poet Harishena, is the quintessential example. Engraved on an Asokan pillar, this long eulogy, partly in verse and partly in prose, details Samudragupta's extensive military conquests. It categorizes the defeated kings into different groups: those whose kingdoms were annexed, those who were defeated and then reinstated as feudatories, frontier kings, and tribal republics who paid tribute, and foreign powers like the Shakas and Kushans who entered into diplomatic relations. It provides an unparalleled geographical and political map of India in the 4th century CE. Another vital Gupta record is the Bhitri pillar inscription of Skandagupta. This posthumous inscription is less of a pure eulogy and more of a solemn record of Skandagupta's achievements, particularly his crucial victory over the Pushyamitras and the formidable Hunas. The inscription credits him with restoring the fallen fortunes of the Gupta dynasty and presents him as a saviour of his lineage, highlighting the severe external threats the empire faced during his reign.
Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. The Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta is primarily a:
(A) Legal code issued for the governance of the empire.
(B) Religious text outlining the principles of the Gupta state religion.
(C) Grant of land to the poet Harishena for his services.
(D) Detailed eulogy of the king's military campaigns and diplomatic relations.

287. According to the Allahabad prashasti, as described in the passage, what was Samudragupta's policy towards the defeated kings in the south?
(A) Their kingdoms were permanently annexed into the Gupta empire.
(B) They were executed and their lineages were extinguished.
(C) They were defeated, captured, and then liberated to rule as his vassals.
(D) They were forced to adopt the Gupta state religion.

288. The Bhitri pillar inscription is of critical importance for understanding which aspect of Skandagupta's reign?
(A) His patronage of art and literature.

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(B) It is the earliest known inscription in Prakrit language.
(C) It records the construction of the Sudarshana lake for the first time.
(D) It documents the alliance between the Kshatrapas and the Satavahanas.

277. The Nasik inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulumavi is politically significant because it:
(A) Demonstrates his patronage of Brahmanical sacrifices.
(B) Is the first Satavahana inscription to be found outside the Deccan.
(C) Announces a matrimonial alliance with the Kshatrapas.
(D) Records the re-grant of a village previously held by his rival, Ushavadata.

278. The Ushavadata inscription in Nasik cave 10 primarily serves as a record of:
(A) Military victories over the Satavahanas.
(B) Extensive charitable donations and public welfare acts.
(C) The establishment of a new calendar era.
(D) The construction of a Jaina monastic complex.

279. The Junagadh inscription highlights Rudradaman's achievement in repairing the Sudarshana lake by emphasizing that:
(A) The repairs were funded by the Mauryan treasury.
(B) The work was completed using forced labour from conquered territories.
(C) He undertook the project without levying additional taxes on the populace.
(D) The project was a joint effort with the Satavahana kingdom.

280. Collectively, what do these three inscriptions—Ushavadata's, Pulumavi's, and Rudradaman's—reveal about the period?
(A) A period of peaceful coexistence and cultural synthesis.
(B) The universal adoption of Sanskrit as the sole language of administration.
(C) The decline of both Buddhism and Brahmanism in the Western Deccan.
(D) A context of intense political rivalry, territorial disputes, and the use of patronage as a political statement.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The Kushan period is richly documented through a variety of inscriptions that shed light on its political chronology, religious pluralism, and artistic patronage. Many of these inscriptions are dated in an unspecified era, widely believed to be the Kanishka era, which is crucial for establishing the period's timeline. The Swat relic casket inscription is a significant record from this era, documenting the enshrinement of relics of the Buddha by a Greek (Yavana) strategos, or military governor, named Theodorus. This highlights the active participation of foreign officials in Buddhist religious practices. Similarly, the Sarnath Buddha image inscription, dated in the 3rd year of Kanishka I's reign, records the installation of a colossal Bodhisattva image by the monk Bala. This epigraph is vital for art history, as it helps date a key piece of the Mathura school of art found at Sarnath, and for religious history, demonstrating the Mahayana practice of image worship and dedication. The Kushan rulers' eclecticism is further evidenced by the Lucknow museum Jain image inscription of the time of Huvishka. This inscription, found on the pedestal of a Jaina image from Mathura, records a donation by a woman, showing that Jainism also flourished and received patronage alongside Buddhism during the Kushan reign.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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281. What is the significance of the Swat relic casket inscription as mentioned in the passage?
(A) It shows a Greek military official's involvement in Buddhist relic enshrinement.
(B) It proves that Kanishka was a Greek by birth.
(C) It is the only known Kushan inscription written in the Greek language.
(D) It marks the beginning of the Kanishka calendar era.

282. The Sarnath Buddha image inscription of the time of Kanishka I is important for which of the following reasons?
(A) It condemns the practice of image worship in Buddhism.

The Junagadh inscription issued by the Saka ruler Rudradaman I is historically significant for its linguistic sophistication. It represents the earliest major royal record composed in chaste, ornate Sanskrit prose, marking a departure from the earlier dominance of Prakrit. The text provides detailed information about the repair of the Sudarshana lake and the king's achievements. Its elaborate style directly influenced the development of the classical Sanskrit prashasti tradition.

9. (C) Kharavela

The Hathigumpha inscription, located in the Udayagiri hills near Bhubaneswar, serves as the primary biographical source for the Kalinga ruler Kharavela. Written in Prakrit, this record provides a year-by-year chronicle of his thirteen-year reign, including his military campaigns and public works. It details his victories over various contemporary kings and his patronage of Jainism. This document is essential for reconstructing the political history of the Kalinga region.

10. (B) (b) and (d) only

Historical analysis confirms that most modern Indian scripts, including Devanagari, are direct descendants of the ancient Brahmi script. While some scholars like Georg Bühler proposed a Semitic origin for Brahmi, this remains a subject of academic debate. Conversely, the Kharosthi script was written from right to left and was primarily used in the northwest. These scripts reflect the regional linguistic and administrative diversity that characterized ancient Indian governance and communication.

11. (D) His numerous public benefactions and religious donations.

The Nasik cave inscription of Ushavadata, who served as a governor under the Western Kshatrapa ruler Nahapana, is a detailed record of charity. It lists extensive donations of land, cash, and livestock to Brahmanas and various religious institutions. The text also mentions the construction of ghats, rest houses, and the establishment of permanent endowments through guilds. Such records provide vital information about the socio-economic conditions and the philanthropic traditions of the era.

12. (B) It is written entirely in the Brahmi script and Prakrit language.

The Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta is a masterpiece of the Gupta period composed by the court poet Harishena. While it utilizes the Brahmi script, the language is high-flown classical Sanskrit rather than Prakrit. This prashasti provides an extensive list of the emperor's conquests and describes his personal qualities and musical talents. The inscription is famously engraved on a pillar that also bears the earlier administrative edicts of the Mauryan emperor Asoka.

13. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Historical inscriptions are essential for identifying the achievements of specific rulers. The Hathigumpha record details the reign of Kharavela, while the Besnagar Garuda pillar commemorates the Greek ambassador Heliodorus. The Junagadh rock inscription is primarily associated with the Saka king Rudradaman I and his public works. Lastly, the Nasik cave records provide information about the later Satavahana rulers, including Vasishtaputra Pulmavi. Together, these epigraphs reconstruct the chronology of ancient dynasties.

14. (D) Harshavardhana

The Aihole pillar inscription, composed in Sanskrit by the poet Ravikirti, is a major source for the history of the Chalukyas of Badami. It celebrates the military genius of Pulakesin II, specifically highlighting his decisive victory over the northern emperor Harshavardhana. According to the text, this battle took place on the banks of the Narmada river, effectively halting Harsha's southern expansion. This record is crucial for understanding the geopolitical balance of the seventh century.

15. (A) The Hunas

The Bhitri pillar inscription located in Uttar Pradesh provides a vivid account of the challenges faced by the Gupta emperor Skandagupta. It particularly details his intense conflict with the Hunas, a fierce group of nomadic invaders from Central Asia. The inscription describes how Skandagupta managed to defeat these enemies and restore the stability and honor of the Gupta

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(B) His successful defense of the empire against the Hunas.
(C) His administrative reforms in the provinces.
(D) His construction of temples and monasteries.

289. What is a key difference in tone between the Allahabad and Bhitri inscriptions as suggested by the passage?
(A) The Allahabad inscription is in Prakrit, while the Bhitri inscription is in Sanskrit.
(B) The Allahabad inscription focuses on religious matters, while the Bhitri inscription focuses on economic policy.
(C) The Allahabad inscription was composed by the king himself, while the Bhitri inscription was composed by a court poet.
(D) The Allahabad inscription is a celebratory eulogy, while the Bhitri inscription has a more solemn tone reflecting a crisis averted.

290. Who is credited with the composition of the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta?
(A) Harishena
(B) Kalidasa
(C) Skandagupta
(D) Samudragupta

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The post-Gupta and early medieval periods witnessed the rise of powerful regional kingdoms, whose history is often illuminated by key inscriptions. The Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II, composed by the poet Ravikirti in Sanskrit, is a masterpiece of this genre. Dated 634-35 CE, it serves as a prashasti for the Chalukyan king, detailing his victories over numerous rulers, most notably the powerful emperor Harshavardhana of Kanauj on the banks of the Narmada river. The inscription's claim that Harsha's 'harsha' (joy) melted away in the face of Pulakesin's might is a famous poetic boast. Another significant record is the Gwalior inscription of the Gurjara-Pratihara king Mihira Bhoja. This prashasti traces the dynasty's lineage, attributing a mythical origin to Lakshmana, and chronicles the military successes of Bhoja and his predecessors, particularly Nagabhata II. It presents the Pratiharas as defenders of Northern India against external and internal foes. From the eastern part of India, the Khalimpur copper plate of the Pala king Dharmapala is a vital source. This land grant charter, while recording the donation of a village, contains an important historical introduction that describes the unique circumstances of his father Gopala's accession to the throne—that he was chosen by the people (prakritibhih) to end a period of anarchy (matsyanyaya).

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. The Aihole pillar inscription is a primary source for the military achievement of which ruler?
(A) Harshavardhana
(B) Mihira Bhoja
(C) Pulakesin II
(D) Dharmapala

292. According to the Aihole inscription, Pulakesin II famously defeated Emperor Harshavardhana on the banks of which river?
(A) Narmada
(B) Ganga
(C) Yamuna
(D) Godavari

293. What unique event regarding the founding of the Pala dynasty is mentioned in the Khalimpur copper plate of Dharmapala?
(A) The founder Gopala conquered the throne from the Pratiharas.
(B) The founder Gopala was appointed by the last Gupta emperor.
(C) The founder Gopala inherited the throne through a matrilineal system.
(D) The founder Gopala was elected by the people to end a state of anarchy.

294. The Gwalior inscription of Mihira Bhoja is significant for tracing the genealogy and eulogizing the military successes of which dynasty?
(A) The Palas
(B) The Gurjara-Pratiharas
(C) The Chalukyas
(D) The Rashtrakutas

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295. Who was the composer of the Aihole prashasti of Pulakesin II?
(A) Harishena
(B) Dandin
(C) Ravikirti
(D) Banabhatta

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Copper plate grants are a distinct and invaluable category of epigraphic sources, serving as legal documents for land donations and providing rich data on socio-economic, administrative, and political history. The Sanjan copper plates of the Rashtrakuta emperor Amoghavarsha I are particularly noteworthy. Issued in 871 CE, they not only record a land grant but also provide a detailed genealogy of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, famously praising the military prowess of his ancestor Dantidurga and the intellectual achievements of Amoghavarsha himself, who is compared to various mythological heroes and patrons of learning. The Mandsor inscription of Yashovarman, though a stone inscription, shares the eulogistic character, celebrating his extensive but short-lived conquests across northern India. In the south, the Tiruvalangadu copper plates of the Chola emperor Rajendra Chola I (year 6) are a monumental source. They provide a long mythical and historical genealogy of the Cholas before detailing Rajendra's own spectacular military achievements, including his famous expedition to the Ganges and his naval conquests. Other grants like the Sangli copper plate of the Rashtrakuta Govinda IV and the Tharsapalli copper plates, which record a grant to a Christian community in Kerala, further illustrate the diversity of patronage and the legal and economic functions these documents served across different regions and religions.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. The Sanjan copper plates are a significant source for the history of which dynasty?
(A) The Cholas
(B) The Palas
(C) The Pratiharas
(D) The Rashtrakutas

297. The Tiruvalangadu copper plates are primarily associated with the military achievements of which Chola ruler?
(A) Rajendra Chola I
(B) Rajaraja I
(C) Kulottunga I
(D) Aditya I

298. What is the particular significance of the Tharsapalli copper plates mentioned in the passage?
(A) They record the earliest known land grant in Indian history.
(B) They document a royal grant to a Christian community.
(C) They are written entirely in the Greek language.
(D) They narrate the conquests of the Rashtrakuta king Govinda IV.

299. According to the passage, what dual function do copper plate charters like those of Sanjan and Tiruvalangadu often serve?
(A) They act as both a calendar and an astronomical treatise.
(B) They function as a legal document for a land grant and a dynastic eulogy.
(C) They are both a manual of statecraft and a collection of religious hymns.
(D) They serve as a trade agreement and a map of pilgrimage routes.

300. The passage mentions the Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV and the Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsha I as examples of epigraphs from which dynasty?
(A) Rashtrakuta
(B) Chola
(C) Pala
(D) Chalukya

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ANSWER

1. (B) The study of ancient and medieval inscriptions.

   Epigraphy refers to the specialized branch of historical study that focuses on analyzing ancient and medieval inscriptions. These textual records are typically engraved on durable surfaces like stone pillars, rock faces, metal plates, or temple walls. This discipline provides direct primary evidence about political genealogies, administrative structures, and cultural practices. Unlike literary texts, inscriptions offer contemporary perspectives that are often preserved in their original context.

2. (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

   Inscriptions serve as reliable historical sources because they are generally contemporary with the events they describe, making them less prone to the corruption seen in literary manuscripts. However, their scope is frequently limited to specific purposes such as documenting religious donations or commemorating royal victories. While they provide authentic dates and names, they often lack the comprehensive narrative found in traditional historical chronicles or literary accounts.

3. (C) The Indigenous Origin Theory

   The Indigenous Origin Theory suggests that the Brahmi script developed within the Indian subcontinent rather than being imported from abroad. Proponents of this view argue that the script evolved from the pictographic symbols of the Indus Valley Civilization. This perspective challenges foreign origin models by emphasizing a continuous local tradition of writing. It seeks to bridge the chronological gap between the Harappan era and the Mauryan period.

4. (D) It is considered the mother script for most modern Indian scripts like Devanagari.

   The Kharosthi script was primarily used in the northwestern part of ancient India and was written from right to left. While it served local administrative and religious needs, it eventually died out and left no modern descendants. In contrast, the Brahmi script is the true ancestor of modern Indian writing systems like Devanagari. Kharosthi was heavily influenced by Aramaic, reflecting the region's diverse cultural contacts.

5. (C) Rock Edict II

   Asoka's Major Rock Edict II provides critical evidence of his humanitarian and welfare-oriented policies across his vast empire. It explicitly mentions the establishment of medical centers for both humans and animals, highlighting an early concern for veterinary care. Furthermore, it notes that these welfare measures extended beyond his own borders to neighboring kingdoms. This edict demonstrates the practical application of his philosophy of Dhamma in public administration.

6. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

   The Lumbini pillar inscription provides archaeological confirmation of the Buddha's birthplace, where Asoka reduced the village tax share and abolished specific religious cesses. Similarly, the Bairat minor rock edict highlights the emperor's deep personal commitment to the Buddhist faith and the monastic community. In this edict, he recommends specific canonical texts for study, proving his active role in promoting Buddhist doctrinal knowledge among his subjects.

7. (D) The adoption of Vaishnavism by a Greek ambassador.

   The Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription is a pivotal archaeological record located in central India. It was erected by Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador sent by the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas to the court of the Sunga ruler Bhagabhadra. The inscription identifies Heliodorus as a Bhagavata, providing early evidence of a foreigner adopting the Vaishnava faith. This confirms the spread and influence of Indian religious traditions during the post-Mauryan period.

8. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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(A) It was mainly restricted to the northwestern regions of the subcontinent.
(B) It was used uniformly throughout the Mauryan Empire.
(C) Its use was primarily concentrated in Southern India.
(D) It replaced Brahmi as the dominant script across India.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The edicts of Asoka are monumental in the study of early Indian history and epigraphy, offering direct insight into his administration and policy of Dhamma. Among the Major Rock Edicts, several are particularly significant. Rock Edict II details Asoka's provisions for social welfare, not only for humans but also for animals, within his empire and in the lands of his neighbours, including the Cholas, Pandyas, and even the Greek king Antiochus. This edict describes the establishment of medical treatment facilities and the planting of medicinal herbs and roadside trees. Rock Edict X is a philosophical reflection on the nature of fame and glory, where Asoka decries the pursuit of personal glory and instead emphasizes that the only true glory lies in his people's adherence to Dhamma. A cornerstone of his policy is articulated in Rock Edict XII, which makes an impassioned plea for religious toleration. It advocates for restraint in criticizing other sects and honouring them in suitable ways, promoting the essential doctrines of all faiths. Perhaps the most famous is Rock Edict XIII, which provides a vivid and remorseful account of the Kalinga war. It details the immense suffering caused by the conquest and marks Asoka's profound transformation towards Dhamma-vijaya, or conquest by righteousness, which he then pursued with his neighbours and beyond.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. Which Asokan Rock Edict specifically addresses the concept of religious toleration and respect for all sects?
(A) Rock Edict II
(B) Rock Edict X
(C) Rock Edict XIII
(D) Rock Edict XII

262. According to the passage, what is the central theme of Asoka's Rock Edict X?
(A) The establishment of medical facilities for humans and animals.
(B) The denunciation of the pursuit of personal fame in favour of the practice of Dhamma.
(C) The detailed account of the conquest of Kalinga.
(D) The dispatch of Dhamma-mahamattas to neighbouring kingdoms.

263. The description of the Kalinga war and Asoka's subsequent conversion to the policy of Dhamma-vijaya is the primary subject of which edict?
(A) Rock Edict II
(B) Rock Edict X
(C) Rock Edict XIII
(D) Rock Edict XII

264. Based on the information in Rock Edict II, as described in the passage, Asoka's welfare activities were:
(A) Limited to the human population within his own empire.
(B) Focused exclusively on planting trees and digging wells.
(C) A response to the Kalinga war's devastation.
(D) Extended to both humans and animals, and to territories beyond his direct rule.

265. What can be inferred from the collective content of the described edicts?
(A) Asoka's concept of governance was deeply intertwined with ethical principles and social welfare.
(B) Asoka's policies were primarily focused on military expansion and consolidation.
(C) Asoka's administration was exclusively concerned with revenue collection.
(D) Asoka was hostile towards the rulers of neighbouring kingdoms.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Beyond the major rock and pillar edicts, other Asokan inscriptions provide specific and valuable historical information. The Lumbini pillar inscription, for example, is of immense significance as it commemorates Asoka's personal pilgrimage to the birthplace of Buddha. The inscription

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dynasty. This victory was a defining moment in his reign and for the empire's survival.

16. (B) It is a prashasti (eulogy) that traces the genealogy and achievements of the dynasty.

The Gwalior inscription of the Pratihara ruler Mihir Bhoja serves as a formal prashasti or eulogy. It provides an extensive genealogy of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty, tracing its origins back to the epic hero Lakshmana. The text highlights the military successes and administrative capabilities of various kings, particularly focusing on their role in defending the region. Composed in Sanskrit, it offers valuable insights into the political ideology and self-perception of medieval Indian royalty.

17. (A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

The Khalimpur copper plate of the Pala ruler Dharmapala is famous for its reference to matsyanyaya, a state of anarchy where the strong oppressed the weak. It credits the people with electing Gopala to end this chaos and establish the Pala dynasty. However, the primary purpose of this specific plate was to record land grants for a temple of Narayana. It is a critical document for understanding the political transition in early medieval Bengal.

18. (A) The lineage of the dynasty, tracing it back to the Yadu race.

The Sanjan copper plates issued by the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I are vital for reconstructing the history of the dynasty. They provide a detailed account of the Rashtrakuta lineage, claiming descent from the legendary Yadu race of the Puranas. The inscription also records military triumphs over contemporary rivals like the Palas and Pratiharas. This document reflects the Rashtrakutas' efforts to legitimize their rule through mythical ancestry and celebrated military achievements in central India.

19. (C) The appointment of Dhamma-mahamattas.

Major Rock Edict XIII is perhaps the most famous of Asoka's inscriptions, detailing his deep remorse following the Kalinga war and his shift toward Dhamma-vijaya. It lists several contemporary Hellenistic kings, demonstrating Asoka's diplomatic reach and his desire to spread his message globally. While it focuses on the internal transformation of the king, the appointment of Dhamma-mahamattas is actually recorded in Major Rock Edict V. This edict remains a cornerstone of Mauryan history.

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20. (D) A detailed genealogy of the Chola dynasty, including mythical ancestors.

The Truvalangad copper plates of Rajendra Chola I are an exceptional source for Chola dynastic history. They contain a massive Sanskrit section that provides a long and detailed genealogy, tracing the family from mythical Solar ancestors down to Rajendra himself. This record highlights the naval expeditions and military conquests of the dynasty, particularly those in Northern India. The plates are essential for understanding the grand imperial ideology and cultural patronage of the powerful Chola empire.

21. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Asoka's Major Rock Edict XII is a foundational text for the study of religious pluralism in ancient India. It explicitly advocates for mutual respect between different sects and the growth of their essential spiritual values. The emperor emphasizes restraint in speech, arguing that criticizing other sects unfairly ultimately harms one's own. By promoting harmony and understanding, Asoka sought to maintain social order and spiritual progress across his diverse and multi-religious Mauryan empire.

22. (B) The Nestorian Christian church.

The Tharsapalli copper plates, dating to the ninth century, represent a significant record of the pluralistic society of early medieval Kerala. Issued by the ruler of Venad, they document a grant of land and specific commercial privileges to the Nestorian Christian community at Kollam. The plates are unique because they are signed by representatives of various trading guilds and religious groups. This highlights the region's historical role as a vibrant center for international trade and religious diversity.

23. (C) (a), (b) and (c) only

Epigraphy provides crucial dates for the Kushan period through various image and relic

the seventh century CE. This timeline maps the progression from the post-Mauryan era to the early medieval period in India.

69. (A) The Only Protector of Brahmanas

The title Ekabamhana is given to Gautamiputra Satakarni in the Nasik prashasti recorded by his mother, Gautami Balasri. It translates as the unique or peerless Brahmana and signifies his role as a staunch protector of the traditional social order. The inscription highlights his success in preventing the mixing of castes and his patronage of the priestly class. This title emphasizes the Satavahanas' commitment to orthodox Brahmanical traditions after defeating foreign invaders like the Sakas and Pahlavas.

70. (A) Precise dates and genealogies

The primary value of epigraphy lies in its contemporary and factual nature, which provides specific details often missing from literary works. While ancient literature often uses mythical timelines or lacks historical precision, inscriptions frequently include regnal years, eras, and clear family lineages. They offer concrete evidence for the extent of a king's territory and his administrative policies. This precision allows modern historians to construct a reliable chronological framework for political history that literature alone cannot provide.

71. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

As a prashasti, the primary function of the Allahabad pillar inscription was to glorify Samudragupta and celebrate his military triumphs. It follows a specific literary tradition where the king's virtues and victories are highlighted while his setbacks are ignored. Consequently, it does not record any military defeats or internal challenges the emperor may have faced. While it is an invaluable historical document, it must be read with an understanding of its eulogistic purpose and official royal perspective.

72. (C) A non-sectarian deity, a temple of Narayana.

The Khalimpur copper plate records that the Pala ruler Dharmapala granted land for the maintenance of a temple of Narayana. This deity is a prominent form of Vishnu, reflecting the king's patronage of non-Buddhist religious traditions despite the dynasty's personal faith in Buddhism. Such grants illustrate the inclusive religious policies of the Pala monarchs, who supported various sects to ensure social stability. The inscription provides important information about the religious landscape and temple administration in medieval Bengal.

73. (A) (a), (b), and (c) only

The Sanjan copper plates are a major source for the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I. They were issued from his capital at Manyakheta and record land grants intended for religious merit. The inscription specifically praises the king's personal interest in and patronage of Jainism, which was a significant feature of his reign. While they contain a detailed genealogy, they focus on the dynasty's historical achievements and the ruler's character rather than being composed by the king himself.

74. (D) Eucratides (Eucratides I of Bactria)

In Major Rock Edict XIII, Asoka lists five contemporary Hellenistic kings to whom he sent his Dhamma missions. These include Antiyoka of Syria, Turamaya of Egypt, Antikini of Macedonia, Maka of Cyrene, and Alikasudara of Epirus. Eucratides I of Bactria is not mentioned in this list, as his reign began after Asoka's. This list is historically significant because it allows scholars to cross-link Mauryan history with Greek chronology and provides a precise timeframe for Asoka's reign and activities.

75. (B) A detailed eulogy and genealogy of the Chola dynasty.

The primary purpose of the Truvalangad copper plates was to record the land grants of Rajendra Chola I while providing a grand historical context. They feature a lengthy Sanskrit prashasti that traces the Chola lineage from mythical figures and highlights the military triumphs of Rajendra. This includes his famous expedition to the Ganges and his naval campaigns across the Bay of Bengal. These plates represent the height of Chola imperial ideology and their tradition of preserving detailed dynastic records.

76. (B) Vattezhuttu script with Tamil language and Grantha script for Sanskrit portions

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31. (A) It records the installation of a Bodhisattva image by a monk named Bala.

The Sarnath Buddha image inscription is a vital record from the third regnal year of the Kushan emperor Kanishka I. It documents the installation of a colossal Bodhisattva statue by a Buddhist monk named Bala, who was accompanied by various other devotees. This inscription is significant because it provides a fixed date within Kanishka's reign and highlights the spread of Mathura school art. It also illustrates the patronage network between the monastic community and the lay public.

32. (B) It is dated in the reign of the Indo-Greek king Menander.

The Swat relic casket inscription is an important early epigraph from the northwestern region, written in the Kharosthi script. It records the establishment of Buddhist relics by a local official named Theodorus. While it provides insight into the presence of Greek administrators who adopted local faiths, it is not dated to the reign of Menander. Instead, it belongs to a slightly later period, offering clues about the political transition toward the Kushan era in the Gandhara region.

33. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

Understanding administrative and religious terms is crucial for interpreting historical inscriptions. A prashasti is a formal eulogy praising a king, while Dhamma-mahamattas were officials appointed by Asoka to promote moral conduct. Bali refers to a type of tax or religious offering mentioned in various ancient records. Finally, Devaputra was a prominent royal title adopted by Kushan rulers to assert their divine right. These terms reflect the political and social ideologies of ancient Indian states.

34. (A) Gautamiputra Satakarni

The Nasik cave III inscription was recorded during the nineteenth year of the reign of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi. However, its primary content is a posthumous prashasti of his father, the great Satavahana ruler Gautamiputra Satakarni. It provides a detailed list of his military victories, describes him as the unique protector of Brahmanas, and credits him with restoring the glory of the Satavahana family. This document is the most comprehensive source for evaluating Gautamiputra's significant historical impact.

35. (C) A political situation where the strong devour the weak.

The term matsyanyaya is used in the Khalimpur copper plate to describe the chaotic political state of Bengal before the rise of the Pala dynasty. It literally refers to the law of the fish, where larger fish consume smaller ones, symbolizing a complete breakdown of law and order. According to the inscription, the people elected Gopala to end this anarchy. This reference is historically significant as it suggests an early instance of a ruler chosen through popular consent.

36. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Bhitri pillar inscription of Skandagupta is an essential historical record for understanding the late Gupta period. It describes the emperor's successful efforts to repel the Huna invaders, who posed a grave threat to the empire's stability. The text highlights how Skandagupta restored his family's prestige through these military victories. By documenting this conflict, the inscription provides a reliable archaeological basis for the history of the Gupta-Huna wars and the eventual decline of Gupta power.

37. (C) It confirms the location of Buddha's birthplace and records a tax exemption.

The Lumbini pillar inscription is a landmark epigraph that confirms the historical site of the Buddha's birth. Asoka visited the site in person during his twentieth regnal year and erected a stone pillar to mark the occasion. The inscription records that as a gesture of reverence, the emperor exempted the village of Lumbini from certain taxes and reduced its grain tribute. This document is invaluable for both Buddhist history and the study of Mauryan administrative practices.

38. (C) (a), (b), (c), and (e)

The Aihole pillar inscription is a masterpiece of Sanskrit epigraphy composed by the Jain poet Ravikirti. It provides a detailed account of the Chalukya king Pulakesin II's victories, including his famous triumph over Harshavardhana. The text is precisely dated in the Saka era and

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poetically describes Aihole as a major temple center. Ravikirti also compares his own literary talent to that of Kalidasa and Bharavi, reflecting the high cultural standards of the western Chalukyan court.

39. (D) Brahmi

Both the Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman I and the Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta were written using the Brahmi script. Although these inscriptions belong to different periods and dynasties, they demonstrate the long-standing dominance of Brahmi for official royal records across much of India. The development of this script over centuries shows gradual evolutionary changes in the shape of the characters. These records were fundamental for the eventual decipherment of the ancient Indian writing system.

40. (A) Lumbini inscription of Asoka

Unlike the inscriptions of later rulers which were often elaborate eulogies, the Lumbini pillar inscription of Asoka is a concise commemorative and administrative record. It focuses on the emperor's visit to the Buddha's birthplace and the subsequent tax concessions granted to the village. In contrast, the inscriptions of Pulakesin II, Mihir Bhoja, and Samudragupta are formal prashastis designed to celebrate and glorify their military victories. This distinction highlights the different purposes of royal epigraphy across eras.

41. (C) Rock Edict XIII

Asoka's Major Rock Edict XIII contains the most elaborate and personal account of his transition from military conquest to conquest through Dhamma. It details the suffering caused by the Kalinga war and the king's profound remorse, which led him to abandon further expansion by force. This edict lists foreign Hellenistic rulers as recipients of his peaceful missions, illustrating his vision of a global moral order. It remains the primary source for understanding the pacifist shift in Mauryan policy.

42. (D) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

The Tharsapalli copper plates were issued by the ruler Sthanu Ravi, not Vikramaditya Varaguna. They record significant grants and privileges given to the Christian community and their merchant guild at Kollam. The document is historically valuable for the signatures of various witnesses from multiple communities, reflecting a pluralistic and cosmopolitan social environment. These plates provide clear evidence of the religious tolerance and flourishing international trade networks present in early medieval Kerala during the ninth century.

43. (D) Suvisakha

The Junagadh inscription records that during the reign of the Saka ruler Rudradaman I, a massive storm destroyed the embankments of the Sudarshana lake. The repair work was efficiently carried out by his Pahlava governor, Suvisakha. The inscription emphasizes that this project was completed using the king's private funds without imposing extra taxes or forced labor on the people. This highlights Rudradaman's commitment to public welfare and the administrative efficiency of his provincial governors in Gujarat.

44. (B) The Gurjara-Pratiharas

The Gwalior inscription is the most important epigraphic source for the genealogy and political history of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty. It traces the lineage of the rulers back to the mythical hero Lakshmana and provides details about the achievements of early kings like Nagabhata I. The record particularly celebrates the power of Mihir Bhoja, one of the dynasty's most successful rulers. It helps historians understand the role of the Pratiharas in the tripartite struggle for control over northern India.

45. (C) They record a land grant and provide a detailed historical genealogy.

The Sanjan copper plates are an essential record of the Rashtrakuta dynasty issued by King Amoghavarsha I. Beyond documenting a specific land grant to a Brahmana, they contain a lengthy and detailed historical prologue that traces the dynasty's lineage and military triumphs. These plates provide crucial information about the expansion of Rashtrakuta power and their conflicts with contemporary rivals. They serve as a primary source for reconstructing the political chronology and ideological foundations of this major medieval Indian empire.

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46. (A) 3, 1, 2, 4

The chronological order of these historical events is based on the reigns of the associated kings. Samudragupta's southern campaign occurred in the fourth century CE, followed by Skandagupta's defense against the Hunas in the fifth century. Pulakesin II defeated Harsha in the early seventh century, and Rajendra Chola's northern expedition took place in the eleventh century. This sequence demonstrates the shifting centers of political power in India, from the Guptas in the north to the later medieval empires.

47. (A) Rajendra I

The Truvalangad copper plates provide one of the most exhaustive genealogies found in Chola epigraphy. They trace the family's lineage from the mythical sun and legendary kings down to the reign of Rajendra Chola I. The inscription highlights the military accomplishments of Rajendra, including his naval conquests and his expedition to the Ganges. These records were used by Chola monarchs to establish their imperial legitimacy and celebrate their unprecedented expansion across South and Southeast Asia.

48. (B) Georg Bühler

Georg Bühler was a prominent nineteenth-century scholar who strongly argued for the Semitic origin of the Brahmi script. He proposed that it was derived from North Semitic scripts like Phoenician or Aramaic, likely through trade contacts. While his theories were highly influential for decades, many modern scholars now favor an indigenous development model or suggest more complex interactions. Bühler's work remains fundamental to the study of Indian palaeography and the history of writing systems in Asia.

49. (B) It contains boastful praise contrasting with the king's weak rule.

The Sangli copper plate of the Rashtrakuta king Govinda IV is often cited by historians as an example of highly exaggerated courtly praise. Despite its elaborate Sanskrit prose and grand claims of universal power, historical evidence suggests that Govinda IV was actually a weak and ineffective ruler. This contrast illustrates the nature of some later royal prashastis, which prioritized literary style and traditional royal tropes over objective historical reality. It remains a valuable specimen of tenth-century epigraphy.

50. (A) (a) and (c) only

The Bhitri inscription specifically mentions Skandagupta's victory over the Pushyamitras, which was a critical moment for the Gupta dynasty. Similarly, the Khalimpur plate credits Gopala with ending the state of matsyanyaya in Bengal, marking the start of Pala rule. However, the Aihole inscription was composed in Sanskrit, not Kannada, and the Sanjan plates were issued by Amoghavarsha I rather than Dantidurga. These details are essential for correctly identifying the content and context of major Indian epigraphs.

51. (C) Brihaspatimitra

The Hathigumpha inscription records that in his twelfth regnal year, the Kalinga ruler Kharavela led a massive military expedition into northern India. He reportedly attacked and defeated a king named Brihaspatimitra, who is identified by some historians with a ruler of the Magadha region. According to the text, Kharavela brought back a sacred Jina image that had been taken by the Nandas centuries earlier. This event highlights Kharavela's military prowess and his personal commitment to the Jain faith.

52. (D) Asoka

The royal title Devanampiya Piyadasi, meaning beloved of the gods and he who looks on with affection, is the hallmark of Asoka's inscriptions. For a long time, historians were unsure who this title referred to until the Maski minor rock edict explicitly linked it to King Asoka. This discovery allowed scholars to attribute a vast collection of edicts across the subcontinent to the Mauryan emperor. The titles reflect Asoka's compassionate administrative philosophy and his unique religious identity.

53. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

From the Gupta period onward, the use of copper plates for recording land grants became a standard administrative practice across India. These tamra-shasanas were highly durable and portable, serving as permanent legal titles for the grantees, who were usually Brahmanas or

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his military campaigns, artistic patronage, and infrastructure projects, such as canal repairs. While later prashastis like those of Rudradaman and Samudragupta used Sanskrit and thematic structures, the Hathigumpha record remains the most comprehensive year-by-year biographical document from the first century BCE in the Indian subcontinent.

84. (A) Mathura

The Buddhist monk Bala, who installed a Bodhisattva image at Sarnath during the reign of Kanishka, is also mentioned in an inscription found at Mathura. This indicates that Mathura was a major center of artistic production from which images and monks traveled to other religious sites. Such connections provide evidence for the existence of organized networks of Buddhist patronage and the widespread influence of the Mathura school of art across northern India during the powerful Kushan empire.

85. (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

The Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV is well-known among historians for its highly ornate but historically suspect praise of a ruler who was actually ineffectual. It remains a valuable historical source for the geographical details it provides, recording a specific land grant in the modern-day Sangli district. This illustrates the dual nature of medieval copper plates, which combined flowery royal propaganda with precise administrative and legal information regarding land ownership and local village boundaries.

86. (C) Mahendra

The Mandsor pillar inscription of Yasovarman describes his empire with grandiose geographic boundaries typical of imperial prashastis. It claims his rule stretched from the Himalayas in the north to the Mahendra mountains in the south, and from the Brahmaputra river to the Western Ocean. These claims emphasize the king's status as a universal emperor or chakravartin. While possibly exaggerated, such descriptions help historians understand the political aspirations and the idealized territorial extent of powerful sixth-century Indian regional rulers.

87. (B) Allahabad pillar inscription

The Allahabad pillar inscription provides the earliest and most detailed epigraphic evidence for the rise of the Gupta dynasty. It explicitly mentions Samudragupta as the son of Chandragupta I and the Licchavi princess Kumaradevi. By giving Chandragupta I the title Maharajadhiraja, it marks him as the first truly imperial ruler of the family. This record is essential for dating the start of the Gupta era and understanding the family's progression from local chieftains to sovereign Indian emperors.

88. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The origin of the Brahmi script remains one of the most debated topics in Indian palaeography. Scholars like Georg Bühler proposed that it was derived from Semitic sources, while others point to similarities with the Indus Valley script as evidence of indigenous development. This debate continues because there is no archaeological record of writing between the end of the Indus civilization and the time of Asoka. Both sides use comparative analysis of letter forms to support their conflicting historical interpretations.

89. (D) Khalimpur plate of Dharmapala

While the inscriptions of Heliodorus, Samudragupta, and Skandagupta were all engraved on stone pillars, the Khalimpur record of the Pala ruler Dharmapala is written on a copper plate. Stone pillars were typically public monuments intended for permanent display in religious or administrative centers. Copper plates, however, were portable legal documents used specifically to record land grants to individuals or temples. This difference in material reflects the distinct public and private functions of these various types of ancient epigraphic records.

90. (B) 634 CE

The Aihole pillar inscription is precisely dated to the year 556 of the Saka era. To convert this to the Common Era, 78 years are added, resulting in 634 CE. This specific date is crucial for historians because it allows them to accurately place the reign of Pulakesin II and his military victory over the northern king Harshavardhana. Precise dating in inscriptions like this provides the essential chronological anchors needed to

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throughout the inscriptions of the Mauryan emperor Asoka. It encapsulates his vision of kingship as a moral duty dedicated to the well-being of all living beings. This concept informed his policies on medical care, environmental protection, and religious tolerance. Asoka believed that his administrative actions should benefit not just his human subjects but also animals, reflecting his comprehensive and compassionate worldview.

62. (B) Munger copper plate of Devapala

The Munger copper plate is a significant record of the Pala ruler Devapala. It provides a detailed genealogy of the dynasty and celebrates the emperor's military and naval achievements, which reportedly extended his influence far beyond Bengal. Like other Pala grants, it documents the patronage of religious institutions and the donation of land. This inscription is essential for understanding the peak of Pala power and the extent of their administrative control during the ninth century in northern India.

63. (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

The Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman provides a valuable history of the Sudarshana lake in Gujarat. It records that the reservoir was originally constructed by Pushyagupta, a governor under the Mauryan emperor Chandragupta. Later, the embankment was strengthened and canals were added during the reign of Asoka. By documenting these successive repairs, the inscription highlights the continuous state interest in irrigation and public works under different dynasties over several centuries in the Saurashtra region.

64. (C) A significant religious and architectural centre

The Aihole inscription's poetic description of the city reflects its importance as a major hub of religious and cultural activity. During the Chalukya period, Aihole was a thriving center of experimental temple architecture and religious scholarship. The inscription itself is located on a wall of the Meguti Jain temple, further emphasizing the site's multi-religious significance. Its association with many temples made it a place of great architectural pride, symbolizing the wealth and spiritual devotion of the Chalukyan empire.

65. (A) A voluntary offering made out of affection.

In the Junagadh inscription, Rudradaman I is praised for his generosity and fair governance. The term pranaya-datta refers to voluntary contributions or gifts made by the subjects out of affection for their king. The inscription highlights that the ruler did not need to impose forced labor or heavy extra taxes because the people were willing to support his public works projects. This portrayal serves to legitimize his rule by emphasizing his popularity and the benevolent nature of his administration.

66. (B) Kharosthi

The name of the Kharosthi script has been a subject of linguistic debate, with some scholars suggesting it means of the city of asses or refers to a donkey's lip. This theory relates to the script's origin in the northwestern borderlands where such names were common. Others believe the name is derived from an Old Persian term. Regardless of its etymology, Kharosthi was vital for administrative and religious purposes in ancient Gandhara and was always written from right to left.

67. (C) Her parents and all living beings

The Lucknow Museum Jain image inscription from the era of Huviska records a private donation by a woman named Kumaramitra. Like many contemporary Buddhist and Jain records, she dedicates the merit of her pious act to the welfare and happiness of her parents and all sentient beings. This highlights the typical devotional goals of the period and illustrates the active participation of women in religious patronage. It also reflects the inclusive spiritual philosophy of ancient Indian religious traditions.

68. (A) 3, 1, 2, 4

The chronological sequence of these rulers is essential for understanding Indian history. Kharavela reigned in the first century BCE, representing the earliest of the four. Rudradaman I followed in the second century CE as a prominent Western Kshatrapa ruler. Samudragupta expanded the Gupta empire in the fourth century CE. Finally, Pulakesin II ruled the Chalukyas in

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inscriptions. The Sarnath Buddha image belongs to the era of Kanishka I, while the Lucknow Museum Jain image records the time of Huviska. Additionally, the Swat relic casket is an important early epigraph for the region. However, many Satavahana and Saka records used different languages and scripts than those found in the northwestern Kushan territories, reflecting the regional administrative styles of India.

24. (A) Jainism

The Lucknow Museum Jain image inscription from the reign of the Kushan emperor Huviska is a significant piece of evidence for Jain history. It records the installation of an image by a female devotee, demonstrating the active patronage and presence of Jainism in the Mathura region. Such inscriptions provide insights into the social structure of the religious community and the role of women in spiritual activities. This confirms that Jainism flourished alongside Buddhism during the Kushan era.

25. (C) Rashtrakutas of Manyakheta

The Sangli copper plate is associated with the Rashtrakuta ruler Govinda IV, who reigned in the tenth century. Although it contains highly poetic and somewhat exaggerated praise for the king, it provides valuable administrative and geographic details about the Rashtrakuta heartland. Like other copper plate grants, it records the donation of land to religious individuals or institutions. Despite the political decline of the dynasty during this period, the inscription reflects the continued tradition of royal land patronage.

26. (A) 3, 2, 1, 4

The chronological order of these inscriptions is determined by the reigns of the rulers who issued them. Asoka's Rock Edicts date to the third century BCE, representing the earliest records. Kharavela's Hathigumpha inscription follows in the first century BCE. The Allahabad pillar inscription belongs to the fourth century CE during the Gupta expansion. Finally, the Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II dates to the seventh century CE. This sequence maps the long political history of ancient India.

27. (D) The rejection of fame and glory in favour of adherence to Dhamma.

In Major Rock Edict X, Asoka addresses the concept of royal prestige and personal ambition. He declares that he does not seek fame or glory for himself unless it leads to people adhering more closely to the principles of Dhamma. This reflects his broader philosophy that the true duty of a king is to promote the moral and spiritual welfare of his subjects. This rejection of traditional kingly pride distinguishes Asoka's administrative ideology from his predecessors.

28. (B) Bhitri pillar inscription - Maukhari dynasty

The Bhitri pillar inscription is a major source for the Gupta dynasty, not the Maukhari dynasty. It specifically records the military achievements and religious donations of the Gupta emperor Skandagupta, particularly his battles against the Hunas and the Pushyamitras. Other pairs are correct: the Khalimpur plates belong to the Palas, the Sanjan plates to the Rashtrakutas, and the Aihole inscription to the Chalukyas. These specific associations are fundamental for identifying the primary records of each royal family.

29. (C) Vasula

The Mandsor pillar inscription of the ruler Yasovarman was composed by the poet Vasula. This prashasti is notable for its grandiose and highly poetic description of the king's vast conquests across the Indian subcontinent. Vasula's style reflects the high literary standards of the sixth century, emphasizing the king's role as a protector of the people and a powerful conqueror. Despite Yasovarman's brief historical prominence, this inscription remains a significant example of classical Sanskrit courtly poetry.

30. (C) (a), (b) and (c) only

The Hathigumpha inscription is unique for providing a detailed, year-by-year chronicle of the first thirteen years of Kharavela's reign. It mentions his military conflicts with contemporary powers like the Satavahana king Satakarni and his recovery of a sacred Jina image from Magadha. While highly informative, the text is composed in Prakrit rather than Sanskrit. This record is the cornerstone for reconstructing the political and cultural history of the ancient Kalinga region during the post-Mauryan era.

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The Tharsapalli copper plates utilize a bilingual and biscriptal format typical of medieval South Indian records. The main text regarding the land grant and administrative details is written in Tamil using the Vattezhuttu script. In contrast, the introductory Sanskrit portions, which contain the religious and royal praise, are written in the Grantha script. This combination reflects the regional linguistic practices where Sanskrit served as the language of high culture and Tamil as the language of administration.

77. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

Identifying the composers of famous inscriptions helps historians understand the literary culture of ancient royal courts. Harishena composed the Allahabad prashasti for Samudragupta, while Ravikirti wrote the Aihole inscription for Pulakesin II. Vasula is associated with the Mandsor record of Yasovarman, and Vatsabhatti composed a different Mandsor inscription during the reign of Kumaragupta I. These poets were often high-ranking officials, reflecting the close link between administrative power and the patronage of high-quality Sanskrit literature.

78. (C) Palaeography is the study of scripts, while epigraphy is the study of the entire inscription as a historical document.

Palaeography and epigraphy are closely related but distinct disciplines used in historical research. Palaeography focuses specifically on the development, style, and dating of ancient handwriting and scripts. Epigraphy is a broader field that involves reading and interpreting inscriptions as complete historical documents, including their political, social, and economic content. While a palaeographer analyzes the shape of the letters, an epigraphist looks at the entire message and its context to reconstruct the past of ancient civilizations.

79. (B) Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsha

The Sanjan copper plates of the Rashtrakuta ruler Amoghavarsha I are notable for their poetic and sometimes aggressive rhetoric. They claim that the king effectively suppressed the Hunas and posed a serious military threat to the Chalukya dynasty. These statements are part of the larger prashasti meant to glorify Rashtrakuta power and legitimize their expansion across central and southern India. Such descriptions offer insights into the contemporary rivalries and the specific groups that posed challenges to the empire.

80. (C) It emphasizes his status as a self-made king, not just an inheritor of a kingdom.

In the Junagadh inscription, Rudradaman I uses the phrase svayam-uparjita-visala-rajyasya to declare that he acquired his vast kingdom through his own efforts. This emphasizes his personal military merit and leadership qualities rather than merely relying on hereditary succession. This was an important ideological point for a Saka ruler seeking to establish authority in a region previously held by the Mauryas and Satavahanas. It portrays him as a powerful and independent sovereign who earned his right to rule.

81. (B) (a), (b) and (c) only

The Gwalior Prashasti of Mihir Bhoja is a significant Sanskrit record of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty. It explicitly links the family to Lakshmana, the protector brother of Rama, to explain the name Pratihara. The inscription commemorates the construction of a temple for Vishnu, reflecting the dynasty's religious patronage. While it highlights Bhoja's military successes, it does not record his defeats, as its primary purpose was to glorify the king and his lineage for posterity.

82. (C) Gautamiputra Satakarni

The title meaning the one who re-established the glory of the Satavahana family is used for Gautamiputra Satakarni in the Nasik cave inscription issued by his mother. It acknowledges that the dynasty had suffered setbacks under his predecessors, likely due to the expansion of the Western Kshatrapas. Gautamiputra's victories restored the family's prestige and territorial control. This epithet serves as a historical summary of his reign's greatest achievement, ensuring the continued survival of the Satavahana empire.

83. (B) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela

The Hathigumpha inscription is a remarkable specimen of ancient epigraphy written in Prakrit. Unlike most contemporary royal records, it presents a detailed chronological account of Kharavela's thirteen regnal years. It describes

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religious institutions. Because they were intended for private possession, they were less likely to be modified than public stone inscriptions. This development has provided historians with a rich archive of information regarding land tenure and socio-economic life.

54. (B) Allahabad pillar inscription of Samudragupta

The Allahabad pillar inscription is a prime example of the ornate kavya style in early Sanskrit epigraphy. It is composed in a mixture of sophisticated prose and lyrical verse, a literary form known as champu. Harishena, the court poet and minister, used this complex structure to celebrate Samudragupta's military achievements and multifaceted personality. This stylistic choice reflects the high level of literary culture in the Gupta court and set a standard for subsequent royal prashastis in medieval India.

55. (D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-2

Ancient Indian inscriptions utilized a variety of languages and scripts. Most of Asoka's edicts were written in Prakrit using the Brahmi script. The Hathigumpha inscription is also in Prakrit but shows some early Sanskrit influence. In contrast, the Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman and the Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II are composed in sophisticated classical Sanskrit. These linguistic choices often reflected the administrative and cultural priorities of different dynasties across varying centuries and regions.

56. (A) It is a year-by-year chronicle of the king's reign.

The Hathigumpha inscription is unique because it provides a chronological, year-by-year account of the events of Kharavela's thirteen-year reign. Most other royal prashastis are thematic and focus on general praise or specific victories without such a precise temporal structure. This detailed record allows historians to trace the sequence of Kharavela's military campaigns, public works, and religious activities in Kalinga. It remains an unparalleled source for reconstructing the political history of the first century BCE.

57. (C) The Sangha (Buddhist monastic community)

The Bairat minor rock edict is distinct among Asokan inscriptions as it is explicitly addressed to the Sangha, the Buddhist monastic community. In this edict, the emperor expresses his deep personal faith in the Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha. He lists specific Buddhist scriptures that he recommends for study by both monks and the laity. This document proves Asoka's direct engagement with Buddhist doctrine and his efforts to promote ideological unity and scriptural knowledge within the religion.

58. (A) Eran inscription of Bhanugupta

The Eran inscription, dated to 510 CE during the reign of Bhanugupta, is historically significant for providing the first clear epigraphic evidence of the practice of Sati. It commemorates a general named Goparaja who died in battle and records that his wife committed self-immolation on his funeral pyre. This archaeological evidence confirms that the custom existed during the Gupta period, even if it was not yet widespread. It offers a rare glimpse into the social rituals of the time.

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59. (D) (a), (c), and (d) only

The Allahabad Prashasti is a foundational source for the history of Samudragupta. It describes his military strategies, such as his policy of reinstating defeated kings in southern India. The inscription also emphasizes his personal accomplishments, including his expertise in music and poetry. While it provides a comprehensive list of contemporary rulers and frontier tribal states, it was composed in the Brahmi script, not Grantha. These details help reconstruct the vast administrative and cultural reach of the Gupta empire.

60. (B) Antialcidas

Heliodorus, the Greek ambassador who erected the Besnagar Garuda pillar, was sent by the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila. His presence at the court of the Sunga king Bhagabhadra indicates active diplomatic relations between the two powers. The inscription is famous for Heliodorus's adoption of the Bhagavata faith, signifying the cultural synthesis occurring in central India. This interaction between Greek and Indian traditions is a major theme in the history of the post-Mauryan and pre-Kushan era.

61. (C) Asoka

The phrase sarva-loka-hita, meaning for the welfare of the whole world, is a central theme

reconstruct the political and cultural history of medieval India.

91. (A) 3, 4, 2, 1

The chronological order of these inscriptions follows the historical timeline of the issuing dynasties. Asokan edicts from the Mauryan period are the oldest, dating to the third century BCE. The Junagadh inscription of the Sakas follows in the second century CE. The Bhitri inscription belongs to the later Gupta period in the fifth century CE. Finally, the Rashtrakuta Sanjan plates date to the ninth century CE. This sequence maps the major political shifts across ancient and medieval India.

92. (D) The entire inscription is written in Sanskrit using the Nagari script.

The Tharsapalli plates are not written entirely in Sanskrit or Nagari. Instead, they feature a combination of Tamil and Sanskrit languages, utilizing the Vattezhuttu and Grantha scripts. This bilingual format was standard for South Indian grants, where the local language was used for operative details and Sanskrit for religious praise. The plates provide invaluable information about the Christian community in ninth-century Kerala, recording grants made by the local ruler Sthanu Ravi during the prosperous Venad period.

93. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Mapping major inscriptions to their respective dynasties is fundamental for historical research. The Truvalangad plates are a key source for Chola history, while the Khalimpur plate is essential for the Palas. The Gwalior inscription provides the genealogy of the Gurjara-Pratiharas, and the Aihole inscription celebrates the achievements of the Chalukyas of Badami. Together, these records provide the primary framework for understanding the military rivalries and administrative structures of the powerful empires that dominated early medieval India.

94. (B) A long list of his charitable donations and public works.

The Nasik Cave 10 inscription of Ushavadata, the son-in-law of Nahapana, is primarily a record of extensive philanthropy. It details his numerous gifts of land, money, and livestock to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks. The inscription also highlights his public works, such as building river ghats, rest houses, and providing for ferries and marriage expenses. This document offers unique insights into the social ethics and economic life of the Western Kshatrapa kingdom during the early second century CE.

95. (D) All of the above are correct.

Asoka's edicts collectively provide a comprehensive view of his reign and personal ideology. Rock Edicts II, XII, and XIII cover vital topics such as public health, religious tolerance, and the trauma of war. The Bairat and Lumbini edicts offer evidence of his specific religious beliefs and personal visits to sacred Buddhist sites. Together, these epigraphs form the most authentic and direct record of Mauryan governance, demonstrating Asoka's unprecedented commitment to moral administration and the welfare of all.

96. (C) A form of Prakrit

The Hathigumpha inscription of the Kalinga king Kharavela is composed in a form of Middle Indo-Aryan Prakrit. During the first century BCE, Prakrit was the standard language for royal and public inscriptions across much of India, before the later shift toward Sanskrit. The text is written in the Brahmi script and provides a detailed account of Kharavela's military and cultural achievements. This choice of language reflects the linguistic reality of the period and the administrative traditions of the region.

97. (B) Govinda IV

The Sangli copper plates of the Rashtrakuta dynasty are known for using highly flowery and exaggerated language to describe King Govinda IV. The phrase meaning whose rule was praised by the entire world is typical of the decadent literary style found in later medieval prashastis. Historical accounts suggest that Govinda IV's actual reign was marked by political instability and weakness. This illustrates how royal records sometimes used elaborate Sanskrit poetry to project an image of power that did not match historical reality.

98. (C) Lakshmana

The Gwalior prashasti provides a mythical origin for the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty by linking

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them to the hero Lakshmana from the Ramayana. According to the text, the name Pratihara is derived from Lakshmana's role as the door-keeper or protector of his brother Rama. This connection was intended to grant the dynasty high status and associate them with a lineage known for loyalty and martial prowess. Such mythical genealogies were common in medieval India for establishing royal legitimacy and prestige.

99. (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

The Bhitri pillar inscription of Skandagupta is a multifaceted historical source. It provides the only contemporary epigraphic reference to the Pushyamitras, a group that posed a serious military threat to the Gupta empire. Simultaneously, the record serves a religious purpose by documenting the installation of an image of Vishnu and the grant of a village for its maintenance. This combination of political reporting and religious devotion is characteristic of many royal records from the Gupta and post-Gupta periods in India.

100. (B) The kings of Dakshinapatha

In the Allahabad prashasti, Harishena describes Samudragupta's sophisticated military policy toward the kings of southern India, known as Dakshinapatha. This strategy involved capturing the rulers, then releasing them and reinstating them as tributary kings. This was a pragmatic approach designed to ensure loyalty and collect tribute without the administrative burden of direct rule over distant territories. It contrasts with his policy in northern India, where he directly annexed the territories of defeated rulers to consolidate his central empire.

101. (B) Aihole pillar inscription

The Aihole pillar inscription is celebrated for its high literary quality and its author's self-confidence. Ravikirti, the Jain poet who composed the text in Sanskrit, explicitly claims that his poetic skill has brought him fame equal to that of the legendary poets Kalidasa and Bharavi. This makes the inscription not just a historical record of Pulakesin II's victories, but also a significant landmark in the history of Sanskrit literature. It represents the peak of the prashasti tradition in the Deccan.

102. (B) A village or land granted to Brahmanas, usually tax-free.

The term agrahara refers to a specific type of land tenure found frequently in medieval Indian inscriptions. These were typically entire villages or tracts of land granted by kings or nobles to Brahmanas to support their religious and educational activities. These grants were usually perpetual and exempt from most state taxes, making them vital for the growth of local religious centers. The detailed descriptions of agraharas in copper plates provide valuable information about the economic and social organization of rural India.

103. (D) Buddhism

The Swat relic casket inscription records the establishment of Buddhist relics by a local official named Theodorus. This highlights the spread of Buddhism in the Gandhara region and its adoption by individuals of Greek descent who remained in India after the Indo-Greek period. These personal votive records prove that Buddhism was a major social and religious force in the northwest, attracting patronage from diverse ethnic groups and integrating them into the local cultural and spiritual landscape of ancient India.

104. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The inscriptions of Ushavadata offer a rare and detailed look into the economic life of second-century western India. They document specific financial transactions, such as depositing large sums of money with weaver guilds to generate interest for charitable purposes. This evidence confirms the existence of sophisticated banking functions performed by merchant guilds. By recording these donations and investments, the inscriptions provide historians with concrete data on currency, interest rates, and the role of trade organizations in the regional economy.

105. (C) It is an alphasyllabic script with inherent vowels.

The Brahmi script is technically an abugida, meaning it is an alphasyllabic system where each consonant has an inherent vowel sound. Vowel signs are added to the consonant characters to

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change or mute the sound. This sophisticated system allowed for the precise phonetic representation of Indian languages. Over centuries, Brahmi evolved into various regional forms, eventually becoming the mother script for almost all modern South Asian writing systems. Its logical structure remains the foundation of contemporary Indian typography and linguistics.

106. (C) Gautamiputra Satakarni in the Nasik inscription

The Nasik prashasti of Gautamiputra Satakarni contains a series of powerful epithets describing his military and social achievements. He is celebrated for exterminating the pride of the Kshatriyas and for his decisive victories over foreign groups like the Sakas, Yavanas, and Pahlavas. These claims highlight his role as a restorer of the traditional social order and the territorial integrity of the Satavahana empire. The inscription is the primary source for evaluating his status as one of ancient India's greatest conquerors.

107. (B) Lucknow Museum Jain image inscription of the time of Huviska

Unlike the Aihole, Allahabad, or Gwalior inscriptions, which were officially commissioned by kings to celebrate their dynasties, the Lucknow Museum Jain image inscription is a private record. It documents a donation made by a female devotee for the spiritual benefit of her family. This type of record provides a different perspective on history, focusing on individual faith and the social role of ordinary people rather than royal military campaigns. It confirms the flourishing of Jainism under Kushan rule in Mathura.

108. (C) A tiger flanked by two fish, representing the Chola and Pandya emblems.

Chola copper plate grants were typically held together by a metal ring secured with a royal seal. This seal often featured a sophisticated design incorporating the symbols of the Cholas and the dynasties they had conquered. The tiger was the specific emblem of the Chola house, and it was frequently shown alongside the fish of the Pandyas and the bow of the Cheras. This visual representation served as a symbolic claim to imperial supremacy over the entire southern part of the Indian subcontinent.

109. (C) (a), (b) and (c) only

The Junagadh rock is an extraordinary historical monument because it bears the edicts of three different rulers across several centuries. Rudradaman I's inscription on this rock is famous for being an early, long record in classical Sanskrit prose. It details his benevolent administration and the repair of the Sudarshana lake, specifically noting that he did not impose extra taxes for the work. While it provides local history, it focuses on the Saka ruler's own achievements rather than Mauryan genealogy.

110. (A) Vasudeva, the God of gods

The Besnagar pillar inscription records that Heliodorus erected a Garuda-dhvaja in honor of Vasudeva. The text refers to Vasudeva as the God of gods, signifying the importance of the Bhagavata tradition during the second century BCE. This archaeological evidence is crucial for tracing the early history of Vaishnavism and its influence on foreign residents in India. The pillar stands as a testament to the cultural integration of the Indo-Greeks and their personal devotion to the emerging Puranic Hindu deities.

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111. (C) It is dated in a specific regnal year of Yasovarman.

The Mandsor stone inscription is a highly poetic prashasti composed by the poet Vasula in Sanskrit verse. It contains grand claims about Yasovarman's conquests, stating he ruled from the Himalayas to the Mahendra mountains and even defeated the Huna king Mihirakula. While it celebrates his unprecedented power, the inscription is notable for its lack of a specific regnal date, making the precise chronology of Yasovarman's reign difficult to determine. It remains an important but somewhat isolated record of a powerful regional ruler.

112. (A) Asoka

The phrase meaning little spending and little possession in accordance with Dhamma is found in the inscriptions of the Mauryan emperor Asoka. It reflects his ethical teachings on personal conduct and moderation. Asoka used his edicts as a tool for moral education, urging

his subjects to practice restraint and avoid excess. These practical instructions were part of his broader program to create a harmonious and virtuous society based on the universal principles of Dhamma rather than just strict legal codes.

113. (B) Shibi

In the Sanjan plates, the Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I praises the character of his father, Govinda III, through mythical comparisons. He likens Govinda's voluntary sacrifice and noble nature to that of the legendary King Shibi, who is famous in Indian mythology for his extreme selflessness. Such comparisons were used in royal prashastis to elevate the status of the ruler by associating him with the most revered figures of ancient tradition. This highlights the ethical ideals and heroic virtues valued by medieval Indian monarchs.

114. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

The Kharosthi script is unique among ancient Indian writing systems for being written from right to left. This characteristic is a direct result of its derivation from the Aramaic script, which was used for administration in the Achaemenid Persian empire and utilized the same writing direction. As Kharosthi developed in the northwestern borderlands of India to serve regional linguistic needs, it retained this fundamental feature of its parent script. This connection is key to understanding the cross-cultural origins of writing in the region.

115. (A) Approved the consecration of Chakrayudha as the ruler of Kannauj.

The Khalimpur copper plate provides a rare glimpse into the complex politics of the tripartite struggle for northern India. It records that Dharmapala held a grand assembly at Kannauj, attended by various regional rulers, where he oversaw the installation of his protégé Chakrayudha. This event symbolized Dharmapala's brief period of hegemony over the heartland of India. The inscription is a vital record for tracing the fluctuating fortunes of the Pala empire and their efforts to establish imperial control over the prestigious city of Kannauj.

116. (A) Aihole pillar inscription of Pulakesin II

The Aihole pillar inscription celebrates the military successes of the Chalukya king Pulakesin II across many regions. It specifically records his campaign against the Pallavas of Kanchi, noting that he forced their king to retreat behind the walls of his fortress. This conflict marked the beginning of a long and intense rivalry between the Chalukyas and the Pallavas for dominance in southern India. Ravikirti's poetic account of these battles provides the primary historical framework for seventh-century geopolitics in the Deccan and the south.

117. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Inscriptions are often identified by their discovery sites, which are located across different modern Indian states. Aihole, famous for its Chalukyan records, is in Karnataka. Khalimpur, where the important Pala copper plate was found, is located in West Bengal. The Junagadh rock inscriptions are a landmark of Gujarat's ancient history. Mandsor, associated with both Gupta and later regional rulers, is in Madhya Pradesh. Identifying these locations is essential for mapping the geographic reach and administrative centers of ancient Indian dynasties.

118. (D) Minor Pillar Inscription / Commemorative Pillar Inscription

The Lumbini inscription is categorized as a minor pillar or commemorative inscription rather than a major administrative edict. Its primary purpose was to record a specific event: Asoka's pilgrimage to the birthplace of the Buddha in his twentieth regnal year. Unlike the Major Rock Edicts that discuss broad social and moral policies, this record is localized and functional. It documents the emperor's personal devotion and the specific economic benefits he granted to the sacred site. It remains a key piece of Buddhist archaeological evidence.

119. (A) Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela

The Hathigumpha inscription provides a multifaceted view of Kharavela as both a powerful warrior and a cultured ruler. It describes his efforts to repair ancient irrigation systems and notes that he was an expert in music and dance. The text mentions that during times of

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peace, he organized festivals and performances for the enjoyment of his subjects. This portrayal highlights the ideal of the multi-talented ancient Indian monarch who combined military prowess with a deep appreciation for the arts and public welfare.

120. (B) Samudragupta

In the Allahabad pillar inscription, Samudragupta is given the prestigious title Kaviraja, meaning king of poets. Harishena, the composer of the prashasti, describes the emperor as someone whose poetic talent surpassed that of legendary sages. The inscription also mentions his proficiency in playing the musical instrument known as the veena. These details portray Samudragupta as a versatile and cultured monarch, embodying the classical Indian ideal of the rajarsi, a king who is also a scholar and an artist.

121. (B) They are contemporary records and less prone to later alterations.

Epigraphs are considered superior to many literary sources because they were typically created at the time of the events they describe. Unlike Puranic texts or literary epics, which were often revised, expanded, and transmitted orally over centuries, an inscription remains exactly as it was when engraved. This contemporary nature makes them highly reliable for dating, geography, and identifying specific historical figures. While they may contain royal bias, their physical permanence ensures that the original message is preserved without the risk of later interpolation.

122. (B) Paramesvara

According to the Aihole inscription, Pulakesin II assumed the high-sounding title Paramesvara after his decisive victory over the northern emperor Harshavardhana. This title, meaning supreme lord, symbolized his status as a sovereign ruler who had defeated a powerful rival. The inscription poetically notes that Harsha's joy melted away through fear after the battle. This title became a standard part of the Chalukyan royal protocol, signifying the dynasty's power and its successful defense of the Deccan against northern expansionism.

123. (B) Kharavela

The title Kaling-adhipati, meaning Lord of Kalinga, is proudly used by Kharavela in his Hathigumpha inscription. This title asserts his sovereign authority over the Kalinga region and highlights his role as its primary protector and leader. The inscription details how he restored the ancient glory of the Chedi dynasty and expanded Kalinga's influence through military campaigns across India. For historians, this title confirms Kharavela's status as a major regional power who successfully challenged the dominant dynasties of his time.

124. (B) Saka Era

The Sarnath Buddha image inscription is conventionally dated using the Saka era, which began in 78 CE. This dating system was widely used by the Kushans and other contemporary dynasties in northern and western India. By identifying the era used in the inscription, historians can fix the installation of the Bodhisattva image to a specific year in the late first or early second century. This precision is vital for establishing the chronology of the Kushan empire and the development of early Buddhist art.

125. (D) Allahabad pillar inscription

A unique feature of the Allahabad pillar inscription is Harishena's systematic categorization of Samudragupta's various military conquests. The text distinguishes between different groups of enemies, such as the kings of Aryavarta who were violently uprooted, and the kings of Dakshinapatha who were reinstated as tributaries. It also lists frontier kingdoms and forest tribes that paid homage. This organized presentation provides a clear picture of the Gupta empire's diverse administrative strategies and the complex geopolitical landscape of fourth-century India.

126. (C) Tharsapalli copper plates

The Tharsapalli copper plates are a cornerstone for studying the history of Christianity and trade in early medieval South India. Issued in the ninth century, they record a grant made to the church of Tarsā at Kollam and grant its trading guild extensive commercial privileges. These plates are significant for their bilingual nature and the signatures of witnesses from diverse backgrounds, including Jews and Muslims. They

compassionate monarch who prioritized public infrastructure.

155. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

The Tharsapalli copper plates are an invaluable historical document for understanding the religious and commercial history of medieval Kerala. They provide authentic evidence of the early presence of Christian communities and their active role in the regional economy through trading guilds. By documenting land grants and administrative privileges granted by the local ruler, the plates illustrate a society characterized by religious pluralism and flourishing maritime trade. They offer a unique perspective on the social dynamics of the ninth-century Malabar coast and Venad.

156. (A) Study of ancient writing

The term palaeography is derived from the Greek words for old and writing. It is the specialized academic discipline dedicated to the study of ancient and historical handwriting and script forms. For historians and epigraphists, palaeography is essential for deciphering old texts and dating inscriptions based on the evolution of letter shapes over time. By understanding how writing styles changed across centuries and regions, scholars can determine the age of a document and place it within its correct historical and cultural context.

157. (B) Vishnu

The Gwalior prashasti of the Gurjara-Pratihara ruler Mihir Bhoja is dedicated to the god Vishnu. It commemorates the construction of a temple for the deity, reflecting the king's personal faith and the dynasty's overall religious orientation. The title Adivaraha, which Bhoja adopted, also signifies his devotion to the Boar incarnation of Vishnu. This religious commitment was a major aspect of the Pratihara royal identity, as they often portrayed themselves as defenders of the traditional faith and protectors of the social and moral order.

158. (C) The Allahabad Pillar Inscription

The Allahabad pillar inscription provides the most comprehensive and detailed account of the vast conquests achieved by Samudragupta. It lists dozens of specific kings, tribal states, and regions across the Indian subcontinent that were defeated or brought under Gupta influence. Harishena's sophisticated narrative categorizes these conquests into different strategic groups, offering historians a clear picture of the empire's geographical reach and political strategy. No other contemporary source provides such a thorough list of the rulers and territories involved in the Gupta expansion.

159. (B) His victory over Harshavardhana

The Aihole pillar inscription serves as the primary record for the military triumphs of the Chalukya king Pulakesin II. The historical narrative reaches its climax with the description of his decisive victory over the northern emperor Harshavardhana. This event, which took place on the banks of the Narmada, effectively halted Harsha's southward expansion and established Pulakesin as a peer to the greatest northern rulers. The inscription's focus on this victory highlights its status as the most significant geopolitical event of Pulakesin's successful reign.

160. (C) The inscription was a posthumous eulogy for Gautamiputra Satakarni.

The Nasik prashasti of Gautami Balasri was recorded during the nineteenth year of her grandson Vasishtaputra Pulmavi's reign. It is a retrospective and posthumous eulogy that celebrates the monumental achievements of her son, the late Gautamiputra Satakarni. The text uses flowery language to describe his military victories and his role in restoring the glory of the Satavahana dynasty. This administrative delay shows that the greatest deeds of a ruler were sometimes commemorated long after their death to reinforce the legitimacy of their successors.

161. (C) They present an official perspective and rarely reflect common people.

While epigraphy is a highly reliable source, it has significant limitations as a tool for comprehensive history. Most inscriptions were commissioned by kings, high officials, or wealthy donors, meaning they primarily reflect an elite and official perspective. They focus on royal achievements, military victories, and religious patronage, often omitting the everyday experiences and struggles of the common population. To reconstruct the life of the average ancient Indian, historians must

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authority over the prestigious heartland of the ancient Magadha and Bihar regions.

134. (A) 4, 2, 3, 1

Arranging these inscriptions chronologically requires mapping them to their respective eras. Asoka's Rock Edicts from the third century BCE are the oldest. They are followed by the Besnagar Garuda pillar from the second century BCE. The Swat relic casket dates to the early Kushan or pre-Kushan period around the first century CE. Finally, the Tharsapalli copper plates belong to the ninth century CE. This sequence illustrates the long evolution of epigraphy and the shifting cultural influences in India over a millennium.

135. (C) The edicts primarily use Prakrit, but the scripts vary regionally between Brahmi, Kharosthi, Greek, and Aramaic.

Asoka's communication strategy was remarkably inclusive, using languages and scripts that were familiar to local populations. While most of his edicts were in Prakrit using the Brahmi script, those in the northwest utilized Kharosthi, Aramaic, and even Greek. This linguistic diversity highlights the vast geographic extent of the Mauryan empire and the pragmatic approach of the administration. By tailoring his message of Dhamma to different linguistic groups, Asoka ensured that his moral and administrative policies were widely understood by his diverse subjects.

136. (B) Hathigumpha inscription

The Hathigumpha inscription is the only major record of the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga. It serves as a detailed biography of its greatest ruler, Kharavela, who claimed descent from the Mahameghavahana family. The record highlights his military successes across northern and southern India and his extensive public works in Kalinga. By documenting the rise of this regional power, the inscription provides a crucial link in the history of the eastern coast during the post-Mauryan and pre-Kushan transitional period in India.

137. (A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

The Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman is a grandiose panegyric that celebrates the king's vast conquests and portrays him as a universal sovereign. It claims he ruled a territory wider than even the Guptas or Hunas. While it is a valuable example of sixth-century Sanskrit poetry, it was composed by the poet Vasula, not Ravikirti. Ravikirti is the well-known author of the Aihole inscription for the Chalukya king Pulakesin II. These distinct poetic voices reflect the regional literary cultures of their respective courts.

138. (B) Gujarat

The Sanjan copper plates of Amoghavarsha I record that they were issued from a temporary army camp located on the banks of the Tapi river. This location indicates that the Rashtrakuta court was on the move, likely during a military campaign in the Gujarat region. These plates provide vital details about the dynasty's military activities and their efforts to maintain control over the strategically important western territories. The geographic details in such grants are essential for reconstructing the movement and reach of medieval Indian royal administrations.

139. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Royal titles in inscriptions are key indicators of a ruler's identity and political strategy. Asoka is famously identified as Devanampiya, while Samudragupta proudly used the title Lichchhavi-dauhitra to emphasize his maternal lineage. Gautamiputra Satakarni was called Ekabamhana in his mother's prashasti to signify his commitment to Brahmanical tradition. Mihir Bhoja of the Pratihara dynasty adopted the title Adivaraha, reflecting his devotion to Vishnu. These titles offer significant insights into the personal faith and political ideology of these major Indian monarchs.

140. (D) All of the above.

Many scholars challenge the idea that Brahmi evolved directly from the Indus script due to several critical factors. First, there is a massive chronological gap of over a millennium between the last Indus seals and the first known Brahmi records. Second, the fundamental nature of the two scripts is different: the Indus script appears logographic, while Brahmi is alphasyllabic. Finally, the structural similarities between Brahmi and North Semitic scripts provide a strong alternative explanation. These points

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illustrate the sophisticated economic and social integration of foreign religious and merchant communities in the kingdom of Venad.

127. (C) The early Arab invasion of Sindh and Gujarat

The Gwalior inscription of the Pratihara king Bhoja credits his ancestor Nagabhata I with a major victory over a powerful Mlechchha army. Historians identify this as a reference to the early eighth-century Arab military expeditions that entered India through Sindh. By successfully repelling these invaders, the Gurjara-Pratiharas established themselves as a major defensive power in northwestern India. This event was a defining moment for the dynasty, contributing to their rise to prominence and their claim to be protectors of the traditional social order.

128. (C) Mandsor inscription

The Mandsor pillar inscription is the only major historical record of Yasovarman, a ruler who briefly rose to great power in sixth-century Malwa. Without this epigraph, historians would have very little knowledge of his reign or his victory over the Huna leader Mihirakula. The inscription's grandiose claims illustrate how quickly regional powers could emerge and disappear during the transition from the Gupta era to the early medieval period. It remains a fascinating example of a powerful monarch known almost entirely through a single epigraphic source.

129. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Palaeography is an indispensable tool for historians working with undated inscriptions. By analyzing the stylistic evolution of characters and script forms, researchers can estimate the timeframe of a document with significant accuracy. For example, the transition from Mauryan Brahmi to Kushan or Gupta Brahmi involves recognizable changes in letter shapes. This comparative method allows for the relative dating of archaeological finds, helping to fill gaps in the historical record and place undated rulers and events within a broader chronological framework.

130. (C) Chola

Chola copper plate grants are renowned for their massive size and linguistic complexity. They typically feature long Sanskrit prashastis that provide elaborate mythical and historical genealogies of the dynasty. Following the Sanskrit section, the plates transition into detailed Tamil records of the land grant, including boundary descriptions and administrative rules. This bilingual tradition was used to assert the dynasty's high ritual status through Sanskrit while ensuring the practical legal details were accessible in the local language for administrative purposes in South India.

131. (A) (a), (b), (c) and (d) only

The Bhitri pillar inscription located in Ghazipur is an essential document of the Gupta era. It provides a detailed account of Skandagupta's military triumphs over the Hunas and the Pushyamitras, which were critical for the empire's survival. The record also serves a religious function, documenting the installation of an image of Vishnu. Unlike many other records, it is composed in Sanskrit, reflecting the dynasty's cultural patronage. These details make it a primary source for both the political and religious history of the fifth century.

132. (C) Junagadh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman

The Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman provides an important retrospective history of the Sudarshana lake. It mentions that during the reign of Asoka, the irrigation works were further developed under the supervision of a governor named Tushaspha, who is identified as a Yavana or person of Greek origin. This detail is significant as it confirms that the Mauryan administration employed individuals of foreign descent in high provincial offices. It illustrates the cosmopolitan and inclusive nature of Mauryan governance in distant western provinces.

133. (A) Pataliputra

The Khalimpur copper plate records that the Pala king Dharmapala issued the grant from his victorious army camp, or jayaskandhavara, located at Pataliputra. This is historically significant because it shows that even after the Mauryan period, Pataliputra remained an important political and strategic center for North Indian rulers. The mention of this specific location helps historians trace the movement of the Pala court and their efforts to project

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Kshatrapa power before their eventual defeat by Gautamiputra Satakarni.

148. (D) All of the above are correct.

Identifying the major copper plate grants and their associated rulers is essential for medieval Indian history. The Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsha and the Sangli plates of Govinda IV are primary sources for the Rashtrakutas. Similarly, the Khalimpur plates belong to the Palas, and the Truvalangad plates are vital for the Chola dynasty. Each of these records provides unique details about the genealogy, military campaigns, and administrative practices of these powerful empires, forming the backbone of our understanding of early medieval India.

149. (C) Brahmi and Prakrit

The Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription is written in the Brahmi script and the Prakrit language, which were common for public records in second-century BCE central India. Despite being commissioned by a Greek ambassador, it follows local linguistic and epigraphic traditions. This indicates that Greek residents in India adapted to the existing administrative and religious culture. The use of Prakrit ensures the message was accessible to the local population, while the Brahmi script connects it to the broader tradition of Indian writing across the subcontinent.

150. (C) The reduction of the tax 'bali' and fixing the share 'bhaga' at one-eighth.

The Lumbini pillar inscription records a specific act of royal generosity following Asoka's visit to the birthplace of the Buddha. He announced that the village of Lumbini would be exempted from the religious tax known as bali. Additionally, he reduced the land revenue share, or bhaga, from the usual amount to just one-eighth of the produce. This administrative record provides valuable evidence of Mauryan taxation systems and shows how the emperor used economic policy to express his personal religious devotion.

151. (C) It provides a year-by-year account of Samudragupta's reign.

The Allahabad pillar inscription is a thematic prashasti that focuses on Samudragupta's military triumphs and personal virtues rather than providing a chronological, year-by-year history. It organizes his conquests by geographic region and describes his qualities as a musician and poet. While it mentions his relations with distant rulers like those from Sri Lanka and his proficiency with the veena, it does not follow the strict temporal structure seen in records like the Hathigumpha inscription. It remains the most important narrative source for the Gupta expansion.

152. (D) Satavahana

The title Lord of the Dakshinapatha was frequently used by the rulers of the Satavahana dynasty to assert their sovereignty over southern India and the Deccan. This title reflected their strategic position as the dominant power south of the Vindhyas. Inscriptions of the dynasty, such as those at Nasik and Nanaghat, highlight their control over vital trade routes and their military successes against foreign invaders. This claim to southern lordship was a central part of Satavahana royal ideology for several centuries during the ancient period.

153. (B) Khalimpur, Sanjan, Gwalior

The tripartite struggle for control over northern India involved the Palas, Rashtrakutas, and Gurjara-Pratiharas. Each dynasty's perspective on this conflict is captured in its major inscriptions: the Khalimpur plate for the Palas, the Sanjan plates for the Rashtrakutas, and the Gwalior prashasti for the Pratiharas. By comparing these records, historians can reconstruct the shifting alliances, military campaigns, and ideological claims made by each power as they vied for hegemony over the prestigious city of Kannauj during the early medieval period.

154. (B) Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman

In the Junagadh inscription, the Saka ruler Rudradaman I is celebrated for his benevolent administration of the Saurashtra region. It specifically records his restoration of the Sudarshana lake after a catastrophic storm. The text emphasizes that the repair was completed using the king's private wealth and without the use of vishti, or forced labor. This distinguishes Rudradaman from other ancient rulers and highlights his commitment to the welfare of his subjects, portraying him as a just and

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remain central to the ongoing debate about the origin of Indian writing.

141. (D) Aihole pillar inscription

The Aihole pillar inscription was issued by the Chalukya king Pulakesin II in the seventh century, making it a record of a southern dynasty. In contrast, the Allahabad, Bhitri, and Mehrauli inscriptions are all associated with rulers of the powerful Gupta empire of northern India. These Gupta records provide essential details about Samudragupta, Skandagupta, and Chandragupta II respectively. Distinguishing between these northern and southern records is fundamental for correctly placing the military triumphs and administrative history of ancient India's major imperial powers.

142. (C) The Northwest

The northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent was a vibrant meeting point of diverse cultures, including Greeks, Sakas, and Kushans. Rulers in this region frequently issued bilingual and biscriptal coins and inscriptions to communicate with their multi-ethnic subjects. These records often combined Greek or Aramaic with local Prakrit, using scripts like Greek and Kharosthi. This practice reflects the pragmatic administrative needs of foreign dynasties ruling over Indian territories and provides invaluable evidence for the cultural synthesis and linguistic diversity of the Gandhara region.

143. (C) Jainism

The Hathigumpha inscription explicitly mentions Kharavela's lifelong devotion and patronage to the Jain faith. He is described as a worshipper of all religious orders but specifically highlights his activities in support of Jainism. The text records his recovery of a sacred Jina image that had been taken away by the Nandas and his construction of residential caves for Jain monks in the Udayagiri hills. This makes the inscription a primary source for understanding the role of Jainism as a major royal religion in ancient Kalinga.

144. (A) Rock Edict X

Major Rock Edict X is a significant document that articulates Asoka's unique philosophy of leadership. In it, he declares that the traditional royal desire for fame and glory is worthless unless it helps the people to follow the path of Dhamma. By rejecting personal prestige in favor of moral administration, Asoka sought to redefine the role of the monarch. This edict highlights his commitment to a new kind of kingship centered on spiritual service rather than the glorification of individual power.

145. (C) Kalidasa and Bharavi

In the Aihole pillar inscription, the poet Ravikirti makes a bold literary claim, stating that his poetic talent has earned him fame equal to that of Kalidasa and Bharavi. These two figures were considered the pinnacle of classical Sanskrit literature. By making this comparison, Ravikirti highlights the sophisticated cultural environment of the Chalukyan court and his own status as a master of ornate Sanskrit verse. This boast provides historians with evidence of the high literary standards and prestige associated with royal prashastis.

146. (B) They were legal documents recording a grant, intended for the recipient.

Copper plate grants, known as tamra-shasanas, were specifically designed to serve as durable legal titles for land ownership. Unlike stone inscriptions that were meant for public viewing, these plates were usually handed over to the person or institution receiving the grant. They followed a standardized format, including a royal genealogy and a precise description of the donated land's boundaries and privileges. Because of their functional nature, they offer detailed information about local administration, taxation, and the practical implementation of royal patronage.

147. (B) Nasik cave 10 inscription of Ushavadata

The Nasik cave 10 inscription records the charitable activities of Ushavadata, who was the son-in-law of the prominent Western Kshatrapa ruler Nahapana. The Western Kshatrapas were the traditional rivals of the Satavahana dynasty, and this inscription provides crucial details about their administration and religious patronage in the western Deccan. It highlights Ushavadata's extensive donations to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks, illustrating the social and economic conditions of the region during the peak of Saka-

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supplement epigraphic data with information from archaeology, folklore, and other more diverse historical sources.

162. (B) Feudatories or governors of a higher power

The title Mahakshatrapa, meaning great satrap or governor, reflects the historical origins of the Western Kshatrapa rulers. They were initially appointed as provincial governors by higher imperial powers, such as the Kushans or the Parthians. Over time, as central authority weakened, these governors became increasingly independent and established their own hereditary dynasties. Even as they became sovereign rulers, they continued to use these traditional titles, illustrating the complex transition from provincial administration to independent monarchy that characterized many regional powers in ancient India.

163. (C) A contractual or elective monarchy

The reference in the Khalimpur plate to Gopala being elected by the prakritis, or people, to end the state of matsyanyaya is a remarkable historical detail. It suggests that the Pala dynasty began not through hereditary succession or simple conquest, but through a form of popular choice or contractual agreement to restore order. This highlights a unique political moment in medieval Bengal where the necessity for stability led to the collective recognition of a new leader. It remains one of the few recorded instances of elective kingship in Indian history.

164. (B) Udayagiri-Khandagiri Hills

The Hathigumpha inscription is engraved on the overhanging brow of a natural cave in the Udayagiri hills, located near Bhubaneswar. This site is part of the larger Udayagiri-Khandagiri cave complex, which served as a major center for Jain monasticism in ancient Kalinga. The location of the record in a Jain religious site aligns with Kharavela's personal faith and his patronage of the Jain community. These hills remain an important archaeological site for understanding the intersection of royal power and religious life in early eastern India.

165. (D) Kharosthi

The Asokan edicts found at Shahbazgarhi and Mansehra in the northwestern part of the empire were written using the Kharosthi script. This script was the standard writing system for the region and was written from right to left. By using the local script and regional dialect, Asoka ensured that his message of Dhamma was accessible to the people living in the borderlands. This adaptability illustrates the Mauryan administration's sophisticated approach to communication and its recognition of the diverse linguistic landscape of the Indian subcontinent.

166. (A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

The Bhitri pillar inscription is indeed the only contemporary record that explicitly mentions a conflict between the Gupta dynasty and a group called the Pushyamitras. This makes it an essential source for identifying the internal and external threats faced by Skandagupta. However, the record does not commemorate an Asvamedha sacrifice. Instead, it details the emperor's military victories and records the installation of a religious image. This distinction is important for correctly characterizing the political and ritual activities of the later Gupta emperors in northern India.

167. (C) Dantidurga

Dantidurga was the foundational ruler of the Rashtrakuta dynasty who rose to power by overthrowing the Chalukyas of Badami in the mid-eighth century. His achievements are recorded in various epigraphic sources, which describe his military triumphs and his consolidation of authority in the Deccan. By replacing the Chalukyas, he established a dynasty that would dominate central and southern India for several centuries. Dantidurga's reign marked a significant shift in the geopolitical landscape, leading to the peak of Rashtrakuta imperial power and cultural influence.

168. (C) To eulogize and praise a king's achievements

A prashasti is a specialized type of royal inscription whose primary purpose is to celebrate and glorify a king's achievements, military victories, and personal virtues. These records were often composed in ornate and highly poetic language by court poets. While they provide valuable historical data, their main goal was to build the king's reputation and provide a record of his greatness for future generations. As official

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The Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV is a significant example of the ornate and highly stylized Sanskrit prose that flourished in the Deccan courts during the tenth century. It reflects the peak of the medieval kavya tradition in epigraphy, characterized by complex metaphors and sophisticated vocabulary. While its historical claims may be exaggerated, its literary merit provides valuable insight into the high level of scholarly and cultural activity patronized by the Rashtrakuta court. This record stands as a testament to the aesthetic and intellectual priorities of late medieval Indian royalty.

210. (B) The Malabar Coast (Kerala)

The Tharsapalli copper plates provide clear evidence of the vibrant and pluralistic society that existed on the Malabar Coast of Kerala during the ninth century. By documenting grants made to a Christian church and its trading guild, the plates illustrate the region's historical openness to diverse religious and ethnic groups. This inclusive environment was driven by the importance of international maritime trade, which brought together people from different backgrounds. The plates remain a vital record of the long tradition of religious tolerance and cosmopolitanism that has characterized the history of Kerala.

211. (C) Brahmi

A historian finding a stone inscription from the third century BCE in central India would naturally expect it to be written in the Brahmi script. During the Mauryan period, Brahmi was the primary script used for official records across most of the Indian subcontinent, except for the northwestern borderlands where Kharosthi was more common. Brahmi's logical structure and widespread use made it the ideal tool for Asoka's administrative and moral communications. Most archaeological finds from this era in central and eastern India confirm the dominance of this ancient writing system.

212. (A) Rock Edict VI

Major Rock Edict VI is one of Asoka's most important statements regarding administrative efficiency and his personal commitment to the public welfare. In it, the emperor declares that he is always available to hear the people's reports, regardless of what he is doing or where he is. He emphasizes that the work for the welfare of all is his primary duty. This edict provides a direct look into Asoka's vision of active and responsive governance, highlighting his unprecedented dedication to serving his subjects and promoting the common good.

213. (C) Acting as an ambassador and adopting Bhagavatism.

The Besnagar pillar inscription is significant because it provides early archaeological evidence of a Greek official's deep engagement with Indian religious traditions. Heliodorus, acting as an ambassador to the Sunga court, not only erected a sacred monument but also identified himself as a devotee of the Bhagavata faith. This proves that the cultural influence of India extended to foreign diplomats who were willing to adopt local spiritual practices. The inscription remains a key document for studying the spread of Vaishnavism and the inclusive nature of religious life in post-Mauryan India.

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214. (B) Important but also difficult to corroborate independently.

The Hathigumpha inscription is a uniquely valuable source because it is the only major contemporary record of the reign of King Kharavela. While it provides an incredibly detailed account of his achievements, this very uniqueness makes its claims difficult to verify using other independent historical sources. Historians must carefully analyze its content, recognizing that while it offers a wealth of information, it also represents an official and potentially one-sided royal perspective. Despite these challenges, it remains the essential foundation for our understanding of the history of ancient Kalinga.

215. (B) Gautamiputra Satakarni

Although the Nasik inscription was recorded during the reign of Vasishtaputra Pulmavi, its content is primarily dedicated to celebrating the achievements of his father, Gautamiputra Satakarni. This posthumous prashasti was used to emphasize the strength and legitimacy of the Satavahana dynasty by reminding the subjects of the great victories and noble character of the previous ruler. By linking his own rule to

By exempting the village of Lumbini from certain taxes and reducing its revenue burden, the emperor demonstrated his personal devotion and recognized the sacred status of the site. This principle of royal exemption was a standard tool of ancient Indian administration, used to support religious institutions, commemorate important events, and maintain the loyalty of specific communities through targeted fiscal benefits.

176. (A) Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV

The Sangli copper plate is notable for its use of sophisticated literary tropes, including a critical reference to the conduct of kings in the Kaliyuga. In this ornate prashasti, the ruler Govinda IV is portrayed as a superior monarch who avoids the traditional vices associated with kingship in the current degenerate age. This type of rhetorical device was used by court poets to highlight the exceptional virtue of their patron in contrast to an idealized or negative historical background. It remains a key example of tenth-century Rashtrakuta political and literary discourse.

177. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II is universally recognized as a masterpiece of medieval Indian epigraphy. Composed in high-quality Sanskrit verse by the poet Ravikirti, it successfully combines grand historical reporting with sophisticated literary style. The precise date it provides, alongside its detailed account of the king's victories, makes it an indispensable source for the seventh century. Its literary merit and historical accuracy have earned it a central place in the study of both Indian political history and the development of classical Sanskrit poetry.

178. (A) Left to right

The Brahmi script is written from left to right, a direction that became the standard for almost all subsequent Indian writing systems. This orientation is one of the script's most fundamental characteristics and distinguishes it from contemporary scripts like Kharosthi, which were written in the opposite direction. The consistent left-to-right flow of Brahmi facilitated its development into various regional and ornate forms over the centuries. This writing direction is still maintained in modern scripts like Devanagari, Bengali, and various South Indian writing systems.

179. (C) Allahabad pillar inscription

In the Allahabad pillar inscription, Samudragupta is described with a series of divine comparisons that elevate his status above ordinary mortals. Harishena poetically likens the emperor to the gods Kubera, Varuna, Indra, and Yama, representing wealth, justice, and power. These comparisons were a central part of Gupta royal ideology, which sought to portray the monarch as a semi-divine figure responsible for maintaining order and prosperity. This use of divine imagery set a precedent for future royal prashastis and the conceptualization of kingship in medieval India.

180. (B) The deep doctrines of Buddhism.

The Bairat minor rock edict offers a rare glimpse into Asoka's personal relationship with Buddhist doctrine. Rather than just discussing general ethics, the emperor lists specific scriptural passages that he believes are essential for the spiritual well-being of the monastic community and the laity. This shows that he was not just a distant patron but a deeply committed practitioner who was familiar with the core texts of the faith. His direct recommendations for scriptural study illustrate his desire to ensure the moral and doctrinal purity of the Buddhist religion.

181. (B) A Nanda King

The Hathigumpha inscription records that the Kalinga ruler Kharavela carried out extensive repairs to an ancient aqueduct that had been originally constructed three hundred years earlier by a Nanda king of Magadha. This detail is historically significant as it provides rare evidence of Nanda influence and infrastructure projects in the Kalinga region before the Mauryan conquest. By restoring these irrigation works, Kharavela demonstrated his commitment to public welfare and emphasized his role as a restorer of the ancient prosperity and glory of his kingdom.

182. (C) Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription

The Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription was erected by the Greek ambassador Heliodorus during the Sunga period, making it non-Asokan. In contrast, Rock Edict X, the Lumbini pillar

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The Truvalangad copper plates are highly valued by historians because they contain one of the most detailed and extensive genealogies of the Chola dynasty. They trace the lineage through both mythical and historical rulers, providing a complete framework for understanding the family's history. This exhaustive record was intended to demonstrate the dynasty's long and prestigious heritage and justify their imperial ambitions. For modern scholars, these plates are an indispensable tool for reconstructing the sequence of Chola kings and the development of their political ideology and cultural influence.

197. (B) Which of the following is NOT a feature of...?

Academic exams frequently use negative or exception-based questions to test a student's thorough understanding of a topic. By asking which of the following is NOT a feature, the question requires the examinee to identify the incorrect statement among several correct ones. this necessitates a comprehensive knowledge of the characteristics, policies, or facts related to the subject. This format is commonly found in history and archaeology exams to ensure students can distinguish between factual details and common misconceptions about ancient inscriptions or dynasties.

198. (D) Literary sources

One of the most important roles of epigraphy is to provide an independent and contemporary record that can be used to verify or supplement literary sources. While ancient texts like the Puranas or royal biographies provide valuable narratives, they often lack chronological precision or contain mythological interpolations. Inscriptions, being contemporary and less prone to later changes, offer specific dates, names, and administrative details. By comparing these two types of evidence, historians can create a more balanced and accurate picture of the political and social reality of ancient India.

199. (B) Brahmi

While the Indus script remains undeciphered, the Brahmi script is recognized as the earliest widespread and fully deciphered script of ancient India. Deciphered in the nineteenth century, it provided the key to reading the edicts of Asoka and reconstructing the history of the Mauryan empire. Brahmi's logical structure and its role as the ancestor of most modern Indian scripts make it the most significant writing system in the subcontinent's history. Its decipherment transformed our understanding of the ancient past and allowed for the scientific study of Indian epigraphy.

200. (B) Prakrit

The Nasik Cave III inscription, which details the achievements of Gautamiputra Satakarni and his son Vasishtaputra Pulmavi, is written in Prakrit. During the second century CE, Prakrit was the standard language for administrative and public records in the Deccan and much of India. The Satavahanas utilized this language to communicate their achievements to their subjects and to document their patronage of religious institutions. This linguistic choice reflects the administrative traditions of the period before the later and more widespread shift toward using classical Sanskrit for royal prashastis.

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201. (B) The Kushan policy of religious patronage to Indian faiths.

Kushan inscriptions from the time of Kanishka and Huviska provide clear evidence of the empire's inclusive and supportive religious policies. They document royal and private patronage to various Indian faiths, including Buddhism, Jainism, and Bhagavatism. These records show that the Kushan rulers, despite their foreign origins, actively integrated themselves into the local cultural landscape by supporting indigenous religions and institutions. This policy of pluralism helped ensure social stability and allowed for a vibrant exchange of artistic and spiritual ideas across their vast and diverse empire.

202. (C) Allahabad Pillar Inscription

The Allahabad pillar inscription contains a famous and vivid description of Samudragupta as a warrior whose body was covered by the scars of a hundred wounds received in battle. This detail, recorded by the poet Harishena, emphasizes the emperor's martial prowess and his personal participation in military campaigns. It portrays him as a heroic leader who earned his conquests through physical bravery and military genius. Such descriptions were central to the Gupta ideal

The Pratihara king Mihir Bhoja famously adopted the title Adivaraha, meaning the first boar, which is an incarnation of the god Vishnu. This title reflects his deep personal devotion and his political ideology, as he portrayed himself as a protector of the world and the social order, similar to the deity. He even issued coins with the image of Varaha and the legend of his title. This religious identification was a central part of his royal identity and emphasized the Pratiharas' role as defenders of the orthodox Hindu faith.

190. (C) The Rashtrakutas in the Sanjan plates.

The Sanjan copper plates of the Rashtrakuta dynasty contain a poetic description of their connection to the Kanarese country, referring to it as their beloved home. This highlights the dynasty's roots in the Karnataka region and their cultural affinity with the local language and traditions. While the Rashtrakutas built a vast empire that stretched across much of India, they maintained a strong regional identity. This reference in their official grants underscores the importance of regional belonging and local support in the building of their large and powerful medieval Indian empire.

191. (C) Rashtrakuta

The Sangli copper plate was issued by the Rashtrakuta ruler Govinda IV, who reigned in the early tenth century. Like many Rashtrakuta grants, it is composed in elaborate Sanskrit and provides valuable details about the dynasty's administration and land patronage. Although Govinda IV's reign was marked by political difficulties, his inscriptions maintained the traditional royal style of his predecessors. This record is an essential source for studying the late Rashtrakuta period and the continued importance of copper plate grants as tools of royal diplomacy and religious merit.

192. (C) Rock Edict XII

Major Rock Edict XII is Asoka's primary statement on the importance of religious harmony and mutual respect. In this edict, he advocates for sāmavāya, or concord, among all sects, arguing that they should each learn from one another. He emphasizes that the essence of all religions is the same and that criticizing other sects only harms one's own faith. By promoting these principles, Asoka sought to create a peaceful and unified society where diversity of belief was seen as a source of strength rather than conflict.

193. (B) The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman

The historical information that Pushyagupta, a governor under Chandragupta Maurya, originally constructed the Sudarshana lake is found in the Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman I. This later Saka record provides a valuable retrospective history of the reservoir over several centuries. By documenting the work of his Mauryan predecessors, Rudradaman linked his own public works to a long tradition of royal concern for irrigation in the Saurashtra region. This detail is crucial for reconstructing the early history of Mauryan administration and infrastructure in western India.

194. (D) Bhagavatism (early Vaishnavism)

The Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription is one of the most significant pieces of archaeological evidence for the early history of Bhagavatism, a precursor to modern Vaishnavism. By recording a Greek ambassador's devotion to Vasudeva, it proves that this religious sect was well-established and influential by the second century BCE. It highlights the transition from Vedic traditions to the more personal and devotional forms of Hinduism that would eventually dominate the religious landscape of India. The pillar remains a landmark of early devotional activity and cultural synthesis.

195. (B) Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman

The Mandsor pillar inscription commemorates the achievements of Yasovarman, who belonged to the Aulikara family that ruled over the Malwa region. The inscription celebrates his rise to power and his military triumphs, including his famous victory over the Huna king Mihirakula. This record is essential for understanding the regional political dynamics of sixth-century central India during the transition from Gupta hegemony to a period of fragmented regional powers. It portrays Yasovarman as a powerful local ruler who briefly established himself as a major force in Indian politics.

196. (B) Provide an exhaustive genealogy for Chola records.

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inscription, and the Bairat edict are all authentic records of the Mauryan emperor Asoka. These Asokan records are distinguished by their focus on Dhamma and administrative policies. The Besnagar record belongs to a later cultural context and provides early evidence of the Bhagavata faith, illustrating the religious developments that occurred after the decline of the Mauryan empire in central India.

183. (C) Kshatriyas

The Nasik prashasti describes Gautamiputra Satakarni as a ruler who destroyed the pride and power of the Kshatriyas. This claim is often interpreted as his effort to curb the authority of local warriors and re-establish the traditional social order under his own centralized rule. Additionally, the inscription celebrates his victories over foreign groups like the Sakas. By portraying him as a restorer of Brahmanical traditions, the record reinforces his legitimacy and emphasizes the Satavahanas' role as protectors of the orthodox social and religious hierarchy in the Deccan region.

184. (B) Swat relic casket inscription

The Swat relic casket inscription is an important archaeological find that documents the establishment of Buddhist relics by a local official of Greek origin. This record provides concrete evidence of the integration of foreign administrators into the local religious culture of the northwest during the post-Alexandrian period. Such inscriptions illustrate the personal devotion and public patronage given to Buddhism by individuals from diverse backgrounds. This cultural synthesis was a major feature of the Gandhara region and contributed to the widespread popularity and institutional strength of Buddhism.

185. (C) Kushan Empire

The Lucknow Museum Jain image inscription is a vital source for understanding the religious history of the Kushan empire. Dated to the reign of Huviska, it records a private donation to the Jain community at Mathura. This proves that Jainism was a flourishing and well-organized religion during the Kushan era, attracting patronage from ordinary citizens. The inscription provides details about the social and religious organization of the Jain Sangha and highlights Mathura's role as a major center for multiple Indian faiths under Kushan administration.

186. (C) Rudradaman I

The Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman I is celebrated by historians as the first major royal record composed in sophisticated and ornate classical Sanskrit. Before this, most royal inscriptions were written in Prakrit. Rudradaman's choice of language and the elaborate prose style set a new standard for royal epigraphy, directly influencing the development of the classical prashasti tradition. This record demonstrates the ruler's cultural patronage and his desire to project an image of power and sophistication through the prestigious language of high scholarship and tradition.

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187. (B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

The Bhitri pillar inscription of Skandagupta is an authentic contemporary record and not a posthumous one. It describes the emperor's military struggles and victories against the Pushyamitras and Hunas, which took place during his own lifetime. The text highlights his role as a restorer of his family's honor through these successful campaigns. By documenting these events as they occurred or shortly after, the inscription provides a reliable and direct historical account of the challenges and successes of the Gupta empire during the mid-fifth century in northern India.

188. (D) Jainism

The Aihole pillar inscription is located on a wall of the Meguti temple, which is a significant early Jain monument. The inscription itself was composed by Ravikirti, who was a Jain poet and devotee. This illustrates the diverse religious landscape of the Chalukyan empire, where Jainism received significant royal and personal patronage alongside Hinduism and Buddhism. The location of this major historical record in a Jain temple highlights the site's importance as a center of religious and literary activity during the seventh century in the Deccan.

189. (C) Mihir Bhoja

of kingship, combining the qualities of a fierce conqueror with those of a cultured and divine ruler.

203. (B) The continuous importance of certain locations and monuments.

The fact that the Allahabad pillar bears the edicts of both Asoka and Samudragupta demonstrates the long-term historical and symbolic significance of certain monuments and sites. By engraving his own achievements on the same pillar as the great Mauryan emperor, Samudragupta sought to associate his reign with the prestigious tradition of imperial power. This reuse of older monuments suggests that ancient Indian rulers understood the value of continuity and the powerful message sent by building upon the legacies of their most respected predecessors in key political and religious centers.

204. (C) Eulogistic and possibly exaggerated.

As a formal prashasti, the Gwalior inscription is fundamentally eulogistic in nature, meaning its primary goal is to praise and glorify the ruler and his dynasty. Such records often use flowery and highly poetic language to describe military victories and personal virtues, sometimes leading to historical exaggeration. While they provide essential genealogical and political information, historians must analyze them carefully, recognizing that they present an idealized and official royal perspective designed to inspire loyalty and project an image of supreme power and divine legitimacy to posterity.

205. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

The Khalimpur copper plate is a vital record for both the political and cultural history of the Pala dynasty. It is written in a proto-Nagari script, representing an important stage in the evolution of Indian writing systems. The text documents a specific land grant to a temple of Narayana and provides critical information about the dynasty's origins, including the mention of Dharmapala's father, Gopala. This combination of administrative, genealogical, and linguistic detail makes the Khalimpur plate one of the most significant epigraphic sources from early medieval Bengal.

206. (B) They provide a genealogy tracing their lineage from the Yadu family.

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The Sanjan copper plates are particularly important for understanding the ideological foundations of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. They provide an elaborate genealogy that traces the family's lineage back to the mythical Yadu race mentioned in the Puranas. This claim was intended to grant the Rashtrakutas high social and ritual status, linking them to a prestigious ancient tradition. Such mythical origins were a common feature of medieval Indian royal records, used to legitimize the rule of emerging dynasties by associating them with the heroic figures of epic and religious tradition.

207. (C) The king it praises is virtually unknown from any other source.

The Mandsor pillar inscription is a challenging historical source because it celebrates the vast power and conquests of Yasovarman, a ruler who appears almost nowhere else in the historical record. Without this specific epigraph, our knowledge of his reign and his victory over the Huna leader Mihirakula would be extremely limited. This illustrates how significant historical figures and events could sometimes leave only a single major archaeological trace. It highlights the importance of epigraphy in identifying regional powers that briefly challenged the dominant empires of their time.

208. (C) South Indian copper plate grants

The use of a bilingual format, featuring both a Sanskrit prashasti and an operative section in the local language, was a standard characteristic of South Indian copper plate grants. This tradition allowed the dynasty to use the prestigious language of high culture, Sanskrit, to establish their ritual status and genealogy. Simultaneously, using the local language like Tamil or Kannada for the practical details of the grant ensured its administrative and legal effectiveness. This dual approach reflected the complex linguistic and social hierarchies of the medieval southern kingdoms and their administrative practices.

209. (B) A highly elaborate style of Sanskrit prose in the Deccan.

Aramaic was the administrative language of the Persian empire, which once controlled parts of northwestern India. As local needs for writing emerged, the Kharosthi script developed as a localized adaptation of this system. This linguistic connection highlights the historical role of the northwest as a zone of intense cultural exchange and administrative adaptation between Indian and foreign traditions.

223. (D) Rock Edict XIII

Major Rock Edict XIII contains Asoka's definitive statement on the policy of Dhamma-vijaya, or conquest through righteousness. It describes his decision to abandon military conquest after witnessing the suffering caused by the Kalinga war. Instead, he sought to spread his message of peace and morality to his own subjects and to neighboring kings. This edict articulates a revolutionary vision of international relations and domestic governance, where a king's power is measured by his moral influence rather than his military strength or territorial control.

224. (C) The Poona copper-plate of Prabhavatigupta

The Poona copper-plate of Prabhavatigupta, who was a Gupta princess and a Vakataka queen, provides the first clear epigraphic evidence for the Puranic-style genealogy of the Gupta dynasty. It traces the lineage through several generations of Gupta kings, using the specific titles and terminology found in the later Puranic records. This inscription is a vital link for historians, as it confirms the historical accuracy of the Puranic lists and helps establish the fixed order and names of the early Gupta emperors during their rise to power in northern India.

225. (C) Kumaragupta I

The Mandsor inscription that commemorates the activities of a guild of silk-weavers was issued during the reign of the Gupta emperor Kumaragupta I. This record is unique because it focuses on the lives and piety of a professional group rather than just the military achievements of the king. It describes how the guild migrated from Gujarat to Malwa and eventually built a magnificent temple for the sun god. This provides invaluable evidence for the mobility of artisans and the social and economic importance of guilds in the Gupta period.

226. (D) Khalimpur plate of Dharmapala

Among the major inscriptions of ancient and medieval India, the Khalimpur record of the Pala ruler Dharmapala is written on a copper plate. In contrast, the Junagadh, Bhitri, and Aihole inscriptions were all engraved on stone surfaces, such as rocks or pillars. Copper plates were specifically used for recording land grants and were intended to be kept as private legal documents by the beneficiaries. This material difference reflects the distinct functional and public roles of these various types of epigraphs in the administration of ancient and medieval Indian kingdoms.

227. (A) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

The Gwalior prashasti is primarily a record of the genealogy and military achievements of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty, tracing their origins to the epic hero Lakshmana. It serves as a formal eulogy for King Mihir Bhoja and his predecessors. However, its main purpose was not to record a land grant to a Buddhist monastery. Instead, it commemorates the construction of a temple for Vishnu, reflecting the dynasty's personal faith. This distinction is important for understanding the specific religious and political goals of the Pratihara rulers as expressed in their official records.

228. (C) A copper-plate grant recording the donation of a village.

The Sangli plate of the Rashtrakuta king Govinda IV is a classic example of a medieval copper-plate grant. Its primary legal function was to document the permanent donation of a village to a religious individual or institution. While the introductory sections of such grants often contain elaborate and flowery prashastis praising the king's achievements, the operative part provides specific administrative details about the land and its boundaries. These records are essential for understanding the practicalities of medieval land tenure, taxation, and the role of royal patronage in supporting religious communities.

229. (C) Sanskrit for the prashasti and Tamil for the operative grant.

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his father's glorious legacy, Pulmavi sought to reinforce his authority and maintain the stability and prestige of the empire during his own reign in the Deccan.

216. (B) Statement II is correct, but Statement I is incorrect.

The Swat relic casket inscription is an authentic record of the establishment of Buddhist relics by a Greek administrator named Theodorus. This highlights the personal devotion of foreign officials to local faiths in the northwestern borderlands. However, the record is written in the Kharosthi script and the local Prakrit language, not in Brahmi or Sanskrit. This linguistic choice reflects the administrative and cultural reality of the Gandhara region, where Kharosthi was the standard script for both royal and private communications during the early first century CE.

217. (B) A poet's conventional boast.

In the Aihole pillar inscription, Ravikirti's claim that he attained fame equal to that of Kalidasa and Bharavi is a classic example of a conventional boast common in ancient and medieval Sanskrit literature. Poets often used such comparisons to demonstrate their mastery of the ornate kavya style and to elevate their own status in the eyes of their royal patrons. While it reflects the high cultural standards of the court, it is primarily a literary device rather than a verifiable historical fact about the poet's contemporary reputation or public recognition.

218. (B) A state of political anarchy where the strong destroy the weak.

In the Khalimpur plate, the term matsyanyaya is used as a powerful metaphor to describe the state of extreme political chaos and lawlessness in Bengal before the rise of the Palas. It refers to the law of the fish, where larger fish inevitably devour smaller ones in a world without order. The inscription uses this imagery to justify the election of Gopala as king, arguing that his rule was necessary to protect the weak and restore the stability and security of the region. This reference highlights early Indian political thought.

219. (B) Maharashtra

The Sanjan copper plates were discovered in the modern-day state of Maharashtra, which was part of the core territory of the Rashtrakuta empire. These plates are a major epigraphic find, providing detailed historical and administrative information about the dynasty during the reign of Amoghavarsha I. The discovery of such records in their original regional context helps historians map the territorial extent and administrative organization of medieval Indian states. The Sanjan plates remain one of the most important sources for reconstructing the history of the Rashtrakutas in western India.

220. (B) A village or land granted to Brahmanas.

The term brahmadeya refers to a specific type of tax-free land grant given to Brahmanas by medieval South Indian monarchs. These grants were intended to support the religious and educational activities of the community and were a key feature of the socio-economic and religious life of the Chola and Pallava periods. By establishing brahmadeyas, kings promoted the spread of Brahmanical culture and created loyal local administrative and spiritual centers. The detailed records of these grants in copper plates offer invaluable insights into the history of land tenure and rural organization.

221. (D) They provide a complete and unbiased history of the common people.

Epigraphy is a primary source for ancient Indian history because it provides contemporary, dated, and authentic information about administration and royalty. However, it does not offer a complete or unbiased history of the common people. Most inscriptions were commissioned by elites and focus on royal military victories, religious donations, and official policies. To understand the lives of ordinary citizens, historians must look beyond the formal language of prashastis and edicts, combining epigraphic data with evidence from archaeology, social history, and various other diverse historical records.

222. (B) The shape of letters and its right-to-left direction.

The Kharosthi script's origin from Aramaic is clearly shown by its right-to-left writing direction and the structural similarities between its letter forms and those of the Aramaic alphabet.

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eulogies, they focus on the positive aspects of a reign and are a key part of the political ideology of ancient Indian monarchy.

169. (B) Rajendra I

The Truvalangad copper plates celebrate the military and naval achievements of Rajendra Chola I, one of the dynasty's most powerful rulers. They provide a detailed account of his northern expedition to the Ganges and his unprecedented naval campaigns that reached as far as Southeast Asia. By documenting these massive territorial expansions, the plates illustrate the peak of Chola imperial reach. They serve as an essential primary source for understanding the military strategy and administrative organization that supported the Chola empire's dominance over the Indian Ocean.

170. (C) Christian Church

In the context of the Tharsapalli copper plates, the term Tarsāpalli refers specifically to a Christian church. The term palli was commonly used in South India for the religious buildings of non-Brahmanical sects like Jains, Buddhists, and later, Christians and Muslims. These plates document the generous grants of land and commercial privileges given to the local church at Kollam. This terminology illustrates how foreign religious groups were integrated into the existing social and administrative framework of early medieval Kerala through local linguistic and legal traditions.

171. (B) It contains unbelievable praise for an otherwise ineffectual king.

The Sangli copper plate is often cited by historians as an example of decadent or exaggerated court poetry. It uses highly sophisticated and flowery Sanskrit to portray King Govinda IV as a powerful and beloved sovereign. However, independent historical evidence suggests that his reign was actually weak and characterized by political decline. This disconnect between the ornate language of the prashasti and the actual reality of the king's rule shows how epigraphy could be used for royal propaganda to project an image of strength even during times of institutional weakness.

172. (C) Satavahanas and Western Kshatrapas

The title Aparanta-mahi-pati, meaning Lord of the Western Coast, was claimed by both the Satavahanas and the Western Kshatrapas at different times. This region, known as Aparanta, was a vital commercial hub with many ports involved in international trade. Control over this territory was a major cause of the long-standing rivalry between these two powers. The use of this title in their respective inscriptions signifies their strategic priority in securing the economic wealth generated by the coastal trade and their dominance over the western part of the Indian subcontinent.

173. (C) Mathura school

The Sarnath Buddha image inscription provides evidence for the widespread influence of the Mathura school of art during the Kushan period. The statue was commissioned by the monk Bala from Mathura and installed at the sacred site of Sarnath. This illustrates how artistic styles and religious practitioners traveled along trade routes, spreading specific iconographic traditions. The Mathura school was known for its distinct style and use of red sandstone, and its products have been found at many major Buddhist centers across northern India, testifying to its dominant cultural role.

174. (B) Writing existed during the Indus Valley, disappeared, and was later borrowed or reinvented.

The most widely accepted historical view on the origin of writing in India acknowledges the presence of the undeciphered Indus script, followed by a long chronological gap. Writing appears to have re-emerged in the form of the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts during the third century BCE. Whether this was an indigenous reinvention or an adaptation of foreign models remains a subject of intense debate. However, this model accounts for the archaeological silence regarding writing in the millennium following the decline of the Harappan civilization before the Mauryan period.

175. (B) The king's ability to grant tax exemptions as a form of patronage.

Asoka's Lumbini pillar inscription highlights the king's discretionary power to grant economic relief as a form of religious and social patronage.

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The Truvalangad copper plates utilize a bilingual format that was standard for imperial Chola records. They begin with a grand Sanskrit prashasti that details the mythical and historical genealogy of the dynasty and celebrates the achievements of Rajendra Chola I. Following this high-status introduction, the plates transition into a detailed Tamil section that records the specific legal and administrative details of the land grant. This dual use of languages reflects the social and administrative reality of the Chola empire, where Sanskrit provided ritual prestige and Tamil ensured legal clarity.

230. (C) Kharavela

The Hathigumpha inscription identifies King Kharavela as a ruler of the Chedi dynasty of Kalinga and a member of the Mahameghavahana family. He is the most prominent historical figure associated with this dynasty, and his reign marked a period of great military and cultural prosperity for eastern India. The inscription provides an exhaustive account of his efforts to restore the power and prestige of Kalinga after the decline of Mauryan authority. Kharavela remains a central figure in the post-Mauryan political history of the subcontinent, known almost entirely through his own extensive record.

231. (B) Forced labour was a common form of state exaction.

Rudradaman I's claim in the Junagadh inscription that he did not use vishti, or forced labor, for the repair of the Sudarshana lake provides valuable information about ancient administrative practices. It indicates that forced labor was a well-known and common method used by contemporary states to complete large public works. By explicitly stating that he avoided this practice and used his own funds instead, Rudradaman sought to portray himself as an exceptionally just and benevolent ruler. This helps historians understand the different forms of taxation and labor obligations that existed in ancient India.

232. (B) The movement of monks and artisans under Kushan rule.

The installation of sacred images at distant sites like Sarnath and Kausambi by the monk Bala, who was originally from Mathura, illustrates the significant movement of people and artistic ideas during the Kushan period. It proves that religious networks and artistic traditions were not confined to single regions but traveled along established trade routes under imperial protection. This mobility contributed to the cultural unification of northern India and the widespread influence of the Mathura school of art, which provided the iconographic models for multiple Indian religious traditions during this era.

233. (C) The frontier kingdoms and republican tribes

In the Allahabad prashasti, Samudragupta's policy toward the frontier kingdoms and republican tribal states involved their submission and the payment of various forms of tribute and obedience. Unlike the direct annexation of northern kingdoms or the tributary reinstatement of southern ones, this strategy aimed at ensuring the loyalty and subordination of peripheral groups without direct military occupation. This reflects the sophisticated and varied administrative approaches the Gupta empire used to manage different types of political entities across its vast and diverse territorial reach in fourth-century northern India.

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234. (C) Formal royal prashastis

The Bhitri pillar inscription of Skandagupta is notable for its rare inclusion of personal and emotional details that are often absent from more formal royal prashastis. The description of the emperor spending a night on the bare earth during his military campaigns provides a humanizing look at the challenges he faced in defending his empire. Most royal records focus on idealized images of power and victory, but this detail offers a glimpse into the physical hardships and personal dedication of a Gupta ruler during a time of existential threat to the dynasty's stability.

235. (D) Jainism

Ravikirti, the composer of the famous Aihole pillar inscription for the Chalukya king Pulakesin II, was a dedicated follower of the Jain faith. This is evident from the fact that the inscription is located at the Meguti Jain temple and includes traditional Jain opening verses. Ravikirti's high status as a court poet and official demonstrates that Jain scholars held influential positions in the Chalukyan administration. This religious

in major military expeditions. These grants provide unique snapshots of the political activity of the era, illustrating how monarchs continued their administrative and religious duties even while engaged in territorial expansion or conflict with rivals.

249. (B) 1, 3, 2, 4

The chronological order of these poets and officials follows the history of the dynasties they served. Harishena composed for Samudragupta in the fourth century CE. Vasula served Yasovarman in the sixth century. Ravikirti wrote for Pulakesin II in the early seventh century, and the composer of the Khalimpur plate worked for the Palas in the late eighth or early ninth century. This sequence maps the long tradition of the royal prashasti in India and the shifting centers of literary and political power from the Gupta empire to the medieval regional kingdoms of the north and Deccan.

250. (A) Serve as examples of royal propaganda and literary styles.

Records like the Sangli plates of Govinda IV and the Mandsor inscription of Yasovarman are invaluable to historians primarily as examples of the sophisticated royal propaganda and decadent literary styles of their time. While their grandiose historical claims may be exaggerated or difficult to verify, they provide direct evidence of the aesthetic and intellectual priorities of the royal courts. They illustrate how language and poetry were used to project an image of power and legitimacy. By analyzing these texts, scholars can understand the cultural environment and the ideological self-perception of rulers during periods of political change.

251. (B) They possess greater authenticity due to their contemporaneous nature and durable medium.

Inscriptions are engraved on lasting materials like stone and metal, making them far less susceptible to the changes and errors common in copied literary texts. These contemporary records provide a high level of historical accuracy and authenticity. They offer direct evidence from the time of their creation, allowing researchers to reconstruct the past with significant reliability.

252. (A) The evolution of philosophical doctrines.

Epigraphic records primarily document tangible administrative details like political boundaries, dynastic lineages, and land tenure systems. While they describe royal decrees and socio-economic conditions, they are generally less suited for tracing the complex internal evolution of philosophical or religious doctrines. Such abstract developments are typically found in literary and religious texts rather than in formal public inscriptions.

253. (C) It enabled direct historical interpretation from decipherable written records of the period.

The appearance of decipherable scripts like Brahmi and Kharosthi marks a critical turning point in Indian historical studies. Unlike the earlier undeciphered Harappan script, these systems allow historians to read primary accounts directly from the past. This development provides clear access to the voices of ancient rulers and administrators, facilitating a much deeper and more accurate chronological understanding.

254. (D) To act as a tool for verification, supplementation, or correction of textual accounts.

Epigraphy serves as a vital cross-reference for literary traditions, helping historians to confirm, expand upon, or even challenge accounts found in manuscripts. Because inscriptions are durable and contemporary, they often provide more reliable data than texts that may have undergone revisions. This interaction between different source types enables a more critical and nuanced reconstruction of historical events.

255. (C) Socio-economic and state-religion relationships.

Land grant charters are particularly significant for historians because they provide detailed information regarding the taxation system and land tenure. These documents often illustrate how the state interacted with religious institutions through donations and exemptions. They offer deep insights into the socio-economic structure of the period and the patronage extended by rulers to various spiritual communities and temples.

256. (B) Its highly systematic and phonetic nature at its first appearance.

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The use of the prestigious title Samrat in the Hathigumpha inscription signifies Kharavela's status as an imperial sovereign who possessed supreme authority over his vast kingdom. This title goes beyond that of a local ruler or chieftain, claiming a level of power comparable to the greatest emperors of the time. By adopting this title, Kharavela sought to project an image of Kalinga as a major and independent political force that could challenge the hegemony of contemporary northern and southern powers. It reflects his success in building a powerful and centralized state during his fourteen-year reign.

243. (A) (a), (b) and (d) only

The Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman I is a landmark record in Sanskrit epigraphy, famous for its sophisticated and ornate prose style. It provides a detailed account of the Saka ruler's successes, including his repair of the Sudarshana lake and his matrimonial connections with the Satavahana dynasty. While the record celebrates Rudradaman's achievements, it was not composed by Harishena, who was a poet of the later Gupta period. This inscription remains an essential primary source for the history of western India and the cultural developments of the early second century CE under Saka rule.

244. (B) He whose horses have drunk the water of the three seas.

The epithet ti-samuda-toya-pita-vahana used for Gautamiputra Satakarni in the Nasik prashasti is a powerful poetic metaphor for his vast territorial expansion. It literally means he whose horses have drunk the water of the three seas, implying that his military influence reached from the eastern coast to the western coast and down to the southern tip of India. This claim emphasizes his status as a chakravartin, or universal emperor, whose rule covered the entire southern subcontinent. Such imagery was common in ancient Indian records to describe the unparalleled reach of a great conqueror's military campaigns.

245. (D) Skandagupta

The Bhitri pillar inscription is the primary historical source for the reign and military triumphs of the Gupta emperor Skandagupta. It provides a detailed account of his successful efforts to repel the Huna invaders and suppress internal rebellions during a period of grave crisis for the empire. By celebrating these victories, the inscription portrays Skandagupta as a courageous and dedicated leader who restored the fallen fortunes of his family. It remains a crucial archaeological document for understanding the political and military history of the mid-fifth century and the eventual decline of the powerful Gupta dynasty.

246. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

Categorizing major inscriptions by their primary purpose helps in understanding the diverse functions of ancient epigraphy. Asokan edicts focused on moral education and social harmony, while the Allahabad prashasti celebrated military triumphs and imperial expansion. Donative records like that of Ushavadata focused on individual philanthropy and religious support, while grants like those at Tharsapalli documented land and privileges given to non-Brahmanical religions. Together, these different types of records provide a multifaceted view of the political, religious, and social life of ancient and medieval India across several centuries of history.

247. (A) A royal temple or shrine for deceased rulers.

In Kushan inscriptions, the term devakula refers to a specialized royal temple or shrine dedicated to the worship of deceased rulers of the dynasty. These structures were intended to elevate the status of the monarchs and assert their divine right to rule by linking them to the gods. The discovery of such shrines, like the one at Mat near Mathura, provides important evidence for the Kushan practice of ruler-cults and their sophisticated ideological framework. This integration of political authority and divine honors was a key feature of Kushan governance and their unique cultural identity in India.

248. (A) A grant made from a victorious army camp.

The term jayaskandhavara, found in several early medieval inscriptions like the Khalimpur plate, refers specifically to a grant made from a victorious army camp. This indicates that the king was on a military campaign when the legal document was issued. Such details are significant because they allow historians to trace the movements of royal courts and identify the geographic areas involved

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approach to well-being that was unique among the rulers of the ancient world.

265. (A) Asoka's concept of governance was deeply intertwined with ethical principles and social welfare.

The collective evidence from Asoka's rock edicts reveals a ruler whose administrative style was fundamentally shaped by morality and a concern for public good. From advocating religious tolerance to promoting universal welfare and non-violence, the inscriptions depict a system where state policy served ethical goals. This integration of Dhamma into governance defined the unique character of the Mauryan state under him.

266. (B) It confirms the location of Buddha's birthplace and illustrates Asoka's fiscal policies.

The Lumbini pillar inscription provides critical archaeological and epigraphic confirmation of the site where the Buddha was born. Beyond its religious importance, it details specific economic measures taken by Asoka, such as exempting the village from certain taxes and reducing agricultural dues. This record serves as a valuable example of how Mauryan royal patronage influenced local administration and fiscal management.

267. (B) Reveals Asoka's personal engagement with Buddhist scriptures and the Sangha.

The Minor Rock Edict of Bairat offers a rare glimpse into Asoka's personal devotion to the Buddhist faith rather than just his public policy. In this inscription, he addresses the Sangha directly, expressing his deep reverence for the Three Jewels. Furthermore, he recommends specific texts for study, showing his active role in guiding the spiritual education of monks and followers.

268. (A) He declared it free of taxes and reduced its grain share to one-eighth.

Upon his pilgrimage to the Buddha's birthplace, Asoka granted significant financial relief to the village of Lumbini. The inscription records that he made the village ubalike, or free of certain religious taxes, and lowered the standard land tax to one-eighth of the produce. This gesture reflects the king's use of fiscal powers to honor sacred Buddhist pilgrimage locations.

269. (C) More personal and faith-specific character.

Unlike the general Dhamma proclamations intended for the broader public, the Bairat edict is distinguished by its focus on Asoka's personal religious commitment. It explicitly addresses the Buddhist clergy and discusses scriptural study, revealing an intimate side of his life as a practitioner. This contrast highlights the difference between his universal ethical messages and his specific identity as a patron.

270. (D) Asoka's reign was marked by both public policy pronouncements and personal acts of faith.

The inscriptions at Lumbini and Bairat collectively demonstrate that Asoka balanced his role as a public administrator with his private religious convictions. While some edicts were broad ethical decrees, these specific records show him performing pilgrimages and engaging with religious scholars. Together, they depict a monarch who integrated his personal belief system into both his lifestyle and his governance.

271. (C) It provides evidence of a Greek ambassador's devotion to the Bhagavata cult of Vasudeva.

The Besnagar Garuda pillar inscription is historically significant because it records the conversion of a Greek ambassador, Heliodorus, to the Bhagavata faith. This early record of Vaishnavism shows that indigenous Indian religious traditions held a strong appeal for foreign dignitaries during the post-Mauryan period. It serves as an important milestone in understanding the spread and popularity of the Vasudeva cult.

272. (B) Kharavela and his patronage of Jainism.

The Hathigumpha inscription is the primary historical source for the reign of King Kharavela of Kalinga and his support for the Jaina faith. This record, found in the Udayagiri hills, provides a year-by-year account of his various military and administrative achievements. It highlights his role as a significant patron of Jainism and his efforts in expanding the influence of Kalinga.

273. (D) Antialcidas

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Scholars arguing for an indigenous origin of Brahmi often point to its structural perfection and phonetic systematicity seen in Asokan edicts. They contend that such a highly developed system suggests a long period of independent evolution within the subcontinent rather than being a recent borrowing from foreign sources. This internal complexity supports the theory of a local, sophisticated development.

257. (D) A derivation from the Aramaic script.

Academic consensus suggests that the Kharosthi script was developed from Aramaic, a language used by the Achaemenid Empire which controlled parts of northwestern India. This relationship is evident through the right-to-left writing direction and the clear resemblance of letterforms. The script was adapted to meet administrative and communicative needs in the Gandhara region during the ancient period.

258. (A) Brahmi's origin is a subject of intense debate, while Kharosthi's origin has broader scholarly consensus.

The origins of the Brahmi script remain a major point of scholarly contention, with theories ranging from foreign derivations to indigenous evolution. In contrast, the origin of Kharosthi is widely accepted as being derived from the Aramaic script used in northwestern regions. This difference highlights the complexities and varying levels of evidence found in early Indian palaeographic studies.

259. (C) The use of Aramaic as an administrative language in their territories.

The development of Kharosthi in northwestern India is linked to the Achaemenid Empire's influence, as they utilized Aramaic as an official administrative language. This political presence facilitated the adaptation of Aramaic characters into a script suitable for local Indo-Aryan dialects. The geographical overlap and administrative requirements of the Persian empire were primary factors in the emergence of this script.

260. (A) It was mainly restricted to the northwestern regions of the subcontinent.

Historical evidence indicates that the Kharosthi script was primarily localized in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent, encompassing regions like Gandhara. This geographical distribution was heavily influenced by the script's roots in Aramaic and its use within territories previously controlled by the Achaemenid Empire. Unlike Brahmi, its usage did not spread extensively across the rest of the Indian subcontinent.

261. (D) Rock Edict XII

Rock Edict XII represents a fundamental aspect of Asoka's ethical governance by advocating for religious toleration and harmony among different sects. This specific edict urges people to exercise restraint in criticizing other beliefs and emphasizes honoring all faiths appropriately. It underscores the promotion of essential doctrines shared by various religions, reflecting a state policy aimed at maintaining social peace.

262. (B) The denunciation of the pursuit of personal fame in favour of the practice of Dhamma.

In Rock Edict X, Asoka provides a philosophical reflection on the concepts of fame and glory, ultimately rejecting personal renown. He asserts that true glory is not found in individual achievements but rather in the degree to which his subjects adhere to the principles of Dhamma. This edict highlights the shift from traditional kingly ambitions toward a more ethical leadership.

263. (C) Rock Edict XIII

Rock Edict XIII is widely considered the most famous of Asoka's edicts as it provides a remorseful account of the Kalinga war. It details the extensive casualties and suffering caused by the conflict, which led to the king's profound personal transformation. This change resulted in the adoption of Dhamma-vijaya, or conquest through righteousness, as a primary state policy for governance.

264. (D) Extended to both humans and animals, and to territories beyond his direct rule.

Rock Edict II documents the extensive nature of Asoka's social welfare policies, which reached far beyond his empire's borders into neighboring kingdoms. These provisions included medical facilities for both humans and animals, the cultivation of medicinal herbs, and the planting of trees. Such activities demonstrate a universalist

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occurring during the Kushan era. It records the enshrinement of Buddhist relics by Theodorus, a Greek military governor, demonstrating that foreign officials were deeply integrated into local religious practices. This highlights the cosmopolitan nature of the period and the widespread appeal of Buddhism among various ethnic groups.

282. (B) It helps in dating an iconic sculpture from the Mathura school of art.

The Sarnath Buddha image inscription is a crucial document for art historians as it provides a specific date for a major Bodhisattva sculpture. Since the inscription is dated to the third year of Kanishka I's reign, it serves as a chronological benchmark for the development of the Mathura school of art. It also confirms the widespread practice of image worship.

283. (B) The flourishing of Jainism alongside other faiths under Kushan rule.

The Lucknow museum Jain image inscription, dating to Huvishka's reign, indicates that Jainism continued to thrive as a significant religious tradition alongside Buddhism during the Kushan period. It records a donation made by a woman, showing that the faith received support from diverse members of society. This evidence reinforces the view that Kushan rule was characterized by a pluralistic religious environment.

284. (A) Dating in a specific era, likely that of Kanishka.

A noteworthy feature shared by many Kushan inscriptions is their use of a specific dating system, which most scholars identify as the Kanishka era. This consistency in dating provides a vital chronological framework for understanding the timeline of Kushan rulers and their various activities. It allows historians to synchronize religious donations, military events, and artistic developments across the entire empire.

285. (C) It was an era characterized by religious eclecticism and the patronage of multiple faiths like Buddhism and Jainism.

The various inscriptions from the Kushan period collectively paint a picture of a society where multiple religious traditions were actively practiced and supported. Rulers and officials did not favor a single faith but instead extended patronage to Buddhism, Jainism, and other local cults. This environment of religious eclecticism allowed diverse artistic styles and philosophical ideas to flourish throughout the vast empire.

286. (D) Detailed eulogy of the king's military campaigns and diplomatic relations.

The Allahabad pillar inscription is a classic example of a prashasti, or eulogistic poem, that glorifies the life and achievements of Samudragupta. It provides a comprehensive record of his military conquests across the subcontinent and describes his complex diplomatic interactions with neighboring powers. This document is the primary source for understanding the expansion and political structure of the early Gupta Empire.

287. (C) They were defeated, captured, and then liberated to rule as his vassals.

According to the Allahabad prashasti, Samudragupta followed a policy of grahana-moksha-anugraha toward the rulers of southern India. This meant that after defeating and capturing these kings, he would release them and reinstate them as tributary vassals rather than annexing their territories directly. This strategic approach allowed him to assert suzerainty over distant regions while maintaining stability through existing local leadership.

288. (B) His successful defense of the empire against the Hunas.

The Bhitri pillar inscription is essential for understanding the challenges faced by the Gupta Empire during Skandagupta's reign, particularly the invasion of the Hunas. It records his military victories over these formidable enemies and the Pushyamitras, presenting him as the savior of his dynasty. This record highlights the period of crisis and the king's role in restoring imperial power.

289. (D) The Allahabad inscription is a celebratory eulogy, while the Bhitri inscription has a more solemn tone reflecting a crisis averted.

While both are important Gupta records, they differ significantly in their general mood and context. The Allahabad inscription is a triumphant and expansive poem celebrating Samudragupta's

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According to the text found on the Besnagar pillar, Heliodorus was sent as an ambassador from the court of the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila. His presence at the court of the Sunga rulers and his subsequent religious dedication to Vasudeva provide evidence of diplomatic relations between Indo-Greek kingdoms and central Indian states. This interaction underscores the period's cultural exchange.

274. (A) Detailed, year-by-year narrative of the king's reign.

A defining characteristic of the Hathigumpha inscription is its chronological structure, which systematically lists the accomplishments of King Kharavela for each year of his rule. This detailed narrative covers his military campaigns, public works projects, and religious donations. Such a structured historical account is relatively rare in early Indian epigraphy, making it an exceptionally valuable resource for studying ancient Kalinga.

275. (C) The growing prominence and royal patronage of non-Buddhist indigenous faiths like Vaishnavism and Jainism.

The inscriptions at Besnagar and Hathigumpha collectively illustrate the expanding influence and official support of Vaishnavism and Jainism during the post-Mauryan era. They show that these indigenous faiths were attracting high-ranking foreign followers and receiving substantial royal patronage. This suggests a diverse religious landscape where multiple traditions flourished alongside Buddhism, gaining support from both local monarchs and international diplomatic figures.

276. (A) It is a major early example of an extensive inscription written in classical Sanskrit.

The Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman I is a landmark in Indian palaeography due to its use of classical Sanskrit during a period when Prakrit was the dominant language for public records. This extensive document details military victories and administrative feats, showcasing the shift toward Sanskrit in official epigraphy. It represents an important transition in the linguistic history of inscriptions.

277. (D) Records the re-grant of a village previously held by his rival, Ushavadata.

The Nasik inscription of Vasishtaputra Pulumavi carries significant political weight because it documents the re-allocation of land that was once under the control of the Kshatrapa official Ushavadata. By granting this village to Buddhist monks, Pulumavi symbolically demonstrated the Satavahana reconquest of the territory. This act used land patronage as a public declaration of political victory and sovereign authority.

278. (B) Extensive charitable donations and public welfare acts.

The Ushavadata inscription in Nasik cave 10 serves as a detailed ledger of the pious activities and generous donations made by the Kshatrapa governor's son-in-law. It lists various gifts to Brahmins, including livestock and gold, along with the creation of public facilities such as ferries. These records reflect a governance strategy focused on public beneficence and religious merit-making during the period.

279. (C) He undertaken the project without levying additional taxes on the populace.

In the Junagadh rock inscription, Rudradaman I emphasizes his benevolence by highlighting that the extensive repairs to the Sudarshana lake were funded without taxing his subjects further. This claim was intended to project an image of a compassionate and capable ruler who prioritized the public good over fiscal extraction. It also links his reign to earlier Mauryan irrigation infrastructure developments.

280. (D) A context of intense political rivalry, territorial disputes, and the use of patronage as a political statement.

Taken together, the inscriptions of Ushavadata, Pulumavi, and Rudradaman reveal a period marked by constant power struggles and competition for territorial dominance in Western India. The practice of making land grants and performing public works served as a way for these rival powers to legitimize their rule. Religious patronage thus became a vital tool for expressing political control over contested regions.

281. (A) It shows a Greek military official's involvement in Buddhist relic enshrinement.

The Swat relic casket inscription provides evidence of the cultural and religious synthesis

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serves as early evidence of the religious diversity and tolerance present in Southern India during the medieval period. It illustrates how local rulers provided patronage and legal protections to various faith groups, including those from non-indigenous traditions.

299. (B) They function as a legal document for a land grant and a dynastic eulogy.

Copper plate charters like those of Sanjan and Tiruvalangadu were designed to serve two primary purposes. First, they acted as formal legal records of land donations, ensuring the recipient's rights over the property. Second, they included lengthy introductory sections that functioned as prashastis, glorifying the ruling dynasty's lineage and military achievements. This combination makes them both administrative tools and historical narratives.

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300. (A) Rashtrakuta

Both the Sangli copper plate of Govinda IV and the Sanjan plates of Amoghavarsha I are key historical records belonging to the Rashtrakuta dynasty. These inscriptions provide detailed accounts of different rulers within the same lineage, showcasing their administrative actions and military might. Collectively, they allow historians to trace the evolution of Rashtrakuta power and patronage over several generations during the era.

many conquests during the empire's peak. In contrast, the Bhitri inscription possesses a more serious tone, focusing on the difficult struggles Skandagupta faced while defending the dynasty from collapse during a period of foreign invasion.

290. (A) Harishena

The famous Allahabad pillar inscription, also known as the Prayag Prashasti, was composed by Harishena, who served as a court poet and official under Samudragupta. This elaborate work, written in a mix of verse and prose, provides a detailed account of the emperor's extensive conquests. It remains one of the most important historical documents for reconstructing the events of the Gupta era.

291. (C) Pulakesin II

The Aihole pillar inscription serves as the primary official record of the Chalukyan king Pulakesin II's reign. It was composed to glorify his military achievements and establish his legacy as a powerful monarch in the Deccan. The text provides a detailed list of the many rulers he conquered, making it an indispensable source for the political history of seventh-century southern India.

292. (A) Narmada

In the Aihole inscription, the poet Ravikirti records the historic battle where Pulakesin II successfully checked the southward expansion of Emperor Harshavardhana. This significant military encounter took place on the banks of the Narmada River, which served as a natural boundary between their respective spheres of influence. The victory was a major turning point that secured the Chalukya kingdom's northern frontier.

293. (D) The founder Gopala was elected by the people to end a state of anarchy.

The Khalimpur copper plate reveals a unique historical detail regarding the origins of the Pala dynasty in Bengal. It states that Gopala, the first ruler, was chosen by the people to bring order to a region suffering from matsyanyaya, or widespread lawlessness and anarchy. This indicates a rare instance of consensual or elective kingship being used to restore social stability.

294. (B) The Gurjara-Pratiharas

The Gwalior inscription of Mihira Bhoja is a vital document for reconstructing the history and imperial ideology of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty. It traces their ancestry back to mythical figures and recounts the military triumphs of various kings, particularly Bhoja and Nagabhata II. The inscription emphasizes their role as guardians of Northern India against internal rebellions and external invasions during this period.

295. (C) Ravikirti

Ravikirti, the court poet of the Chalukyan ruler Pulakesin II, is the author of the celebrated Aihole pillar inscription. Written in highly sophisticated Sanskrit, this prashasti displays his literary skill through its poetic descriptions of the king's victories. Ravikirti's work is not only a historical record but also a masterpiece of early medieval Indian literature, reflecting the high cultural standards of the court.

296. (D) The Rashtrakutas

The Sanjan copper plates are a major epigraphic source for the Rashtrakuta dynasty, specifically dating to the reign of Amoghavarsha I. These plates provide extensive information about the lineage of the rulers, starting from the founder Dantidurga. They detail the military successes and intellectual pursuits of the dynasty, making them essential for understanding the political and cultural height of Rashtrakuta power.

297. (A) Rajendra Chola I

The Tiruvalangadu copper plates are primarily dedicated to recording the spectacular military exploits and genealogy of the Chola emperor Rajendra Chola I. These documents detail his famous northern expedition to the Ganges River and his impressive naval campaigns across the sea. As such, they provide a primary account of the peak of Chola imperial expansion and their dominance over Southern India.

298. (B) They document a royal grant to a Christian community.

The Tharsapalli copper plates are of unique historical value as they record a land grant made to a Christian community in Kerala. This document

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pluralism was a characteristic feature of medieval Deccan society, where kings supported diverse faiths to ensure the loyalty and spiritual well-being of all their subjects.

236. (A) Nasik inscription of Ushavadata

The Nasik cave inscription of Ushavadata is historically significant because it provides early and consistent dates that help scholars fix the initial date of the Saka era to 78 CE. By recording numerous donations and administrative acts dated in specific years, the inscription offers a chronological anchor for the history of the Western Kshatrapas and their interaction with the Satavahanas. This precision is essential for reconstructing the political timeline of second-century western India and understanding the broader historical developments that occurred during the transitions between various regional and imperial powers.

237. (C) Jainism

The Rashtrakuta king Amoghavarsha I is historically famous for his deep interest in and extensive patronage of Jainism. The Sanjan copper plates and other records of his reign consistently highlight his religious devotion and his support for Jain scholars and institutions. This patronage contributed to the growth of Jainism as a major cultural and religious force in the Deccan during the ninth century. Amoghavarsha's own literary activities also reflect this influence, illustrating how medieval Indian monarchs could use their personal faith to foster high standards of scholarship and artistic production in their courts.

238. (B) Dating by the regnal year of the ruling king.

The Truvalangad plates use a dating system based on the regnal year of the ruling monarch, a common practice in Chola administration and many other ancient Indian dynasties. By stating the date as the sixth year of Rajendra Chola I, the record provides a clear temporal context within the king's own reign. While this requires modern historians to cross-link with other sources to determine absolute dates, it reflects the contemporary administrative priority of measuring time through the life of the sovereign. This system highlights the central importance of the monarch in the official records of the state.

239. (B) The power of religious institutions in commercial life.

The Tharsapalli copper plates illustrate the significant role that religious institutions played in the economic and commercial life of early medieval Kerala. By granting the local church the status and privileges of a trading guild, the ruler recognized its influence and integrated it into the regional trade network. This demonstrates that in medieval India, religious and economic activities were often deeply interconnected, with temples and churches serving as both spiritual centers and powerful economic actors that facilitated international trade and supported the administrative and financial stability of the local regional kingdom.

240. (C) Brahmi

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The ancient Brahmi script is the primary ancestor from which the modern Devanagari script, alongside many other Indian writing systems, ultimately evolved. Over centuries, the letter forms of Brahmi underwent gradual stylistic changes as it was used across different regions and periods. By the early medieval period, these variations led to the development of several distinct scripts, including Nagari, which is the direct predecessor of modern Devanagari. This long evolutionary process demonstrates the remarkable continuity and adaptability of the ancient Indian writing tradition as it changed to meet new linguistic and cultural needs.

241. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Asokan edicts are a unique and invaluable historical source because they provide a direct and personal look into the mind of a Mauryan emperor. Unlike most other ancient records that were composed by court poets or officials, Asoka's edicts often speak in his own voice, describing his personal struggles, moral journey, and vision for governance. They offer an unprecedented level of insight into his administrative policies and personal philosophy, making them some of the most authentic and direct records of royal thought and practice preserved from any ancient civilization in world history.

242. (C) An imperial sovereign

CHAPTER 09
Numismatics

1. What is the academic study of coins, including their production, circulation, and historical context, called?
(A) Epigraphy
(B) Numismatics
(C) Paleography
(D) Sigillography

2. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The discovery of Roman coins in South India primarily indicates Roman military conquests in the region.
Statement II : The abundance of Roman coins, particularly of emperors like Augustus and Tiberius, points towards extensive maritime trade between the Roman Empire and ancient India.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

3. Which of the following is NOT a primary historical insight derived from the study of ancient Indian coins?
(A) The geographical extent of a kingdom's influence.
(B) The religious beliefs and affiliations of the ruling dynasty.
(C) The complete literary works produced during a specific reign.
(D) The economic conditions and metallurgy of a period.

4. The technique of manufacturing coins by placing a metal blank between two dies and striking the upper die with a hammer is known as:
(A) Casting
(B) Punch-marking
(C) Repoussé
(D) Die-striking

5. Which of the following statements regarding the origin of coinage in India is the most widely accepted scholarly view?
(A) Coinage was introduced to India exclusively by Alexander the Great's invasion.
(B) The Mauryan empire was the first to introduce any form of coinage in India.
(C) The concept of coinage developed indigenously in India, likely in the 6th century BCE.
(D) The Achaemenid empire of Persia was solely responsible for introducing coinage to the Indian subcontinent.

6. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The early punch-marked coins are generally aniconic and do not bear portraits or names of the issuers.
Reason (R) : The authority that issued these coins relied on a combination of symbols to guarantee their weight and purity.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

7. What was the most common metal used for the production of punch-marked coins in ancient India?
(A) Gold
(B) Copper
(C) Lead
(D) Silver

8. The method of producing coins by pouring molten metal into a mould is known as:
(A) Casting

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27. The Ujjain symbol, a cross with a circle at the end of each arm, is a frequent motif on the coins of which dynasty?
(A) Kushanas
(B) Guptas
(C) Indo-Greeks
(D) Satavahanas

28. Arrange the following coinage types in chronological order of their first appearance in India.
1. Gupta gold dinaras
2. Punch-marked coins
3. Indo-Greek drachms
4. Kushana gold coins

(A) 2, 3, 4, 1
(B) 1, 2, 3, 4
(C) 2, 4, 3, 1
(D) 3, 2, 4, 1

29. Which of the following statements about Early Medieval Indian coinage is generally correct?
(A) There was a significant increase in the purity and artistic quality of gold coins compared to the Gupta period.
(B) Coinage became highly standardized across the entire subcontinent.
(C) There was a marked decline in the frequency and quality of coinage, with some regions experiencing a coin famine.
(D) The die-striking technique was completely abandoned in favor of casting.

30. The portrayal of a wide variety of deities from Greek, Iranian, and Indian pantheons is a unique feature of the coinage of which dynasty?
(A) Satavahanas
(B) Guptas
(C) Mauryas
(D) Kushanas

31. Identify the correct pair of a tribal republic and its characteristic coin type.
(A) Audumbaras - Coins with the figure of sage Vishvamitra
(B) Yaudheyas - Ship type coins
(C) Kunindas - Coins with a horseman
(D) Arjunayanas - Coins with the Ujjain symbol

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32. The technique of manufacturing coins in ancient India did NOT include which of the following processes as a primary method?
(A) Punching symbols onto a metal sheet
(B) Electroplating copper coins with a layer of gold
(C) Casting coins in terracotta moulds
(D) Striking a blank between two engraved dies

33. What information do the find spots of coin hoards primarily provide to historians?
(A) The exact date of a king's coronation.
(B) The extent of currency circulation and political influence.
(C) The literacy rate of the population.
(D) The complete genealogy of a dynasty.

34. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The Kushana rulers, especially Kanishka I, issued a large number of gold coins.
Reason (R) : The Kushanas controlled parts of the Silk Road and benefited from the lucrative trade with the Roman Empire, which brought in gold.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

35. The 'Ashvamedha' type of gold coins were issued by Gupta rulers like Samudragupta and Kumaragupta I to commemorate:
(A) a royal wedding.
(B) a victory in a major battle.
(C) the performance of the horse-sacrifice ritual.
(D) the establishment of a new capital city.

36. Which of the following is an incorrect statement regarding Satavahana coinage?
(A) They issued coins predominantly in lead, potin, and copper.
(B) Some Satavahana rulers issued silver portrait coins, imitating the Western Kshatrapas.

(C) are made of pure gold.
(D) feature legends in Brahmi script only.

18. The ship type coins, indicating the importance of maritime trade, were a characteristic issue of which dynasty?
(A) Satavahanas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Guptas
(D) Mauryas

19. Which Gupta ruler is famous for issuing a variety of gold coin types, including the Archer, Tiger-slayer, and Lyrist types, reflecting his personal accomplishments?
(A) Chandragupta I
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Kumaragupta I

20. What is the most appropriate description for uninscribed cast coins found in ancient India?
(A) Silver coins with five distinct symbols.
(B) Gold coins issued by the Kushanas.
(C) Bilingual coins issued by the Indo-Greeks.
(D) Copper coins manufactured using a mould, lacking any legend.

21. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The quality and artistic merit of Gupta gold coinage are considered a high point in Indian numismatic history.
Reason (R) : Gupta coin legends were written in Prakrit, making them accessible to the common populace.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

22. The discovery of large hoards of Roman coins in southern India primarily attests to:
(A) a political alliance between the Satavahanas and the Romans.
(B) a favorable balance of trade for India with the Roman Empire.
(C) the use of Roman coins as the official currency in the Chera kingdom.
(D) Roman migration and settlement in the Deccan region.

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23. Which of the following is an identifying characteristic of Saka-Kshatrapa coinage?
(A) Absence of the ruler's portrait.
(B) Use of lead as the primary metal.
(C) Depiction of a ship on the reverse.
(D) Presence of a bust of the king and dates in an era.

24. Consider the following statements about coin manufacturing:
1. The punch-marked technique involved striking individual symbols onto a metal blank.
2. The casting technique allowed for mass production by pouring molten metal into moulds.
3. The die-striking technique, used by the Indo-Greeks, produced highly uniform and detailed coins.
4. All ancient Indian coins were exclusively manufactured using the casting method.
5. Alloys were never used in ancient Indian coinage; only pure metals were permitted.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3 and 5
(D) 3, 4 and 5

25. The coins of which ancient Indian tribal republic often feature the deity Kartikeya?
(A) Audumbaras
(B) Kunindas
(C) Yaudheyas
(D) Arjunayanas

26. The term 'Dinar' used for Gupta gold coins was likely derived from which foreign coin?
(A) Roman Denarius
(B) Greek Drachma
(C) Persian Daric
(D) Chinese Ban Liang

45. Which of the following metals was rarely, if ever, used for coinage in ancient India before the Indo-Greeks?
(A) Silver
(B) Copper
(C) Gold
(D) Nickel

46. What does the term 'un-inscribed cast coin' specifically refer to?
(A) A blank piece of metal used for trade.
(B) A punch-marked coin that has been worn smooth.
(C) A Roman coin imported into India without any text.
(D) A coin made from a mould that bears symbols but no written legend.

47. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The study of tribal coins, such as those of the Yaudheyas and Kunindas, is important for understanding the history of non-monarchical polities in ancient India.
Reason (R) : These coins, with their specific symbols and legends like 'Yaudheya-ganasya jaya', affirm their republican or oligarchic character.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

48. Identify the incorrect pair regarding Gupta coin types.
(A) Samudragupta - Ashvamedha type
(B) Skandagupta - Ship type
(C) Chandragupta II - Lion-slayer type
(D) Kumaragupta I - Kartikeya type

49. The presence of the king's bust on the obverse and a fire altar on the reverse is a characteristic feature of which coinage system that influenced early medieval coins in Western India?
(A) Roman
(B) Sassanian
(C) Kushana
(D) Gupta

50. Consider the following statements about Kushana coinage:
1. Kujula Kadphises' early coins were often imitations of Roman and Indo-Greek types.
2. Vima Kadphises introduced the first major gold currency in India.
3. Kanishka's coins feature a mix of Greek, Iranian, and Indian deities.
4. Vasudeva's coins predominantly feature the Indian deity Siva and his bull Nandi.
5. Kushana copper coins were of a very light weight and small size.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 3, 4 and 5
(D) 1, 2, 4 and 5

51. The primary material for the vast majority of Satavahana coins was:
(A) Gold
(B) Silver
(C) Lead and Potin
(D) Nickel and Bronze

52. What is the most significant feature of the coins issued by the Western Kshatrapa ruler Rudrasimha III?
(A) They were the first gold coins issued by the dynasty.
(B) They were bilingual, with Greek and Brahmi scripts.
(C) They depict the ruler on horseback.
(D) They are the last dated coins of the dynasty, ending around 395 CE.

53. Arrange the following rulers in the chronological order of their reign based on numismatic evidence.
1. Vima Kadphises
2. Samudragupta
3. Menander I
4. Azes II

(A) 4, 3, 1, 2
(B) 3, 4, 1, 2
(C) 1, 3, 4, 2

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(C) The ship motif on their coins suggests the importance of their navy and maritime trade.
(D) All Satavahana coins were inscribed in Greek and Kharoshthi scripts.

37. The 'Gadhaiya' coins, prevalent in early medieval Western India, are generally considered to be:
(A) high-purity gold coins of the Pala dynasty.
(B) square copper coins of the Cholas.
(C) debased silver or billon coins derived from Sassanian prototypes.
(D) lead portrait coins of the Kalachuris.

38. Consider the following statements regarding the sources for the study of numismatics:
1. The coins themselves are the primary source.
2. Literary texts sometimes mention coins, their names, and their values.
3. Foreign travelers' accounts can provide information on currencies in circulation.
4. Epigraphic records, such as inscriptions, may refer to donations in specific coinages.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 3 and 4 only
(C) 2 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

39. The transition from punch-marked coinage to die-struck coinage in India was significantly influenced by the arrival of the:
(A) Mauryas
(B) Shungas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Indo-Greeks

40. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The absence of coins in certain archaeological layers can indicate a decline in trade and a reversion to a barter economy.
Statement II : All ancient Indian societies used coins for every economic transaction.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

41. Vima Kadphises, a Kushana ruler, is significant in numismatic history for:
(A) issuing the first silver portrait coins in India.
(B) minting coins only in lead and potin.
(C) introducing a large-scale gold coinage for the first time in the dynasty.
(D) placing the image of Buddha on his coins for the first time.

42. Match List I with List II regarding ancient Indian rulers and their characteristic coin types.
List I: (Ruler)
P. Samudragupta
Q. Kanishka I
R. Gautamiputra Satakarni
S. Rudradaman I
List II: (Characteristic Coin Type)
1. Silver coins with date in Saka era
2. Restruck coins of Nahapana
3. Lyrist type gold coin
4. Gold coin with deity 'OESHO' (Siva)

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

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43. The high artistic quality of Gupta gold coins, with their refined imagery and Sanskrit legends, is often seen as a reflection of the:
(A) economic decline of the period.
(B) influence of early medieval coinage.
(C) strict military control over mints.
(D) classical cultural efflorescence of the Gupta age.

44. A hoard of coins containing issues of Augustus and Tiberius is found at a site in Tamil Nadu. What is the most direct historical inference?
(A) The site served as a permanent Roman military outpost for regional surveillance.
(B) The site was part of an active trade network with the Roman Empire in the early 1st century CE.
(C) The local sovereign ruled as a formal vassal of the Roman Emperor under strict treaty.
(D) The local population adopted Latin as the primary language for official administration.

Assertion (A) : The Satavahanas issued portrait coins in silver.
Reason (R) : These portrait coins were heavily influenced by the coinage of the Western Kshatrapas, whom they fought and sometimes supplanted.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

64. Which of the following dynasties did NOT issue coins with portraits of their rulers?
(A) Indo-Greeks
(B) The issuers of the earliest Punch-Marked Coins
(C) Western Kshatrapas
(D) Satavahanas (some rulers)

65. The silver coins of the Gupta dynasty were largely modeled on the coinage of the:
(A) Kushanas
(B) Western Kshatrapas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Indo-Greeks

66. Match List I with List II regarding numismatic terms and their descriptions.
List I: (Coin Term)
P. Karshapana
Q. Dinara
R. Rupaka
S. Gadhaiya
List II: (Description)
1. Gupta gold coin
2. Gupta silver coin
3. Early medieval debased coin
4. Ancient term for a punch-marked coin
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

67. The phenomenon of a ruler restriking the coins of a conquered rival, as seen in the case of Gautamiputra Satakarni overstamping the coins of Nahapana, serves as a powerful statement of:
(A) economic collaboration.
(B) a shortage of fresh metal for minting.
(C) political usurpation and victory.
(D) cultural assimilation.

68. What is 'billon' in the context of numismatics?
(A) A pure gold coin of high value.
(B) A coin made from unbaked clay.
(C) The technical term for a coin's reverse side.
(D) An alloy of a precious metal (usually silver) with a larger amount of a base metal (like copper).

69. The 'Lyrist' type of gold coin, depicting the king playing a musical instrument, is uniquely associated with which Gupta ruler?
(A) Chandragupta I
(B) Chandragupta II
(C) Samudragupta
(D) Kumaragupta I

70. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Kushan king Kanishka I's coins depict only Buddhist deities, reflecting his personal conversion.
Statement II : Kushana coinage is known for its syncretic pantheon, featuring Greek, Iranian, and Indian gods and goddesses.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

71. Read the following case study and answer the question:
An archaeologist excavates a site and finds a layer with abundant punch-marked coins. In the layer directly above it, die-struck coins of the Indo-Greeks appear. What does this stratigraphic evidence most strongly suggest?
(A) A sudden abandonment of the site.
(B) The peaceful coexistence of two different monetary systems.
(C) The punch-marked coins were forgeries of the Indo-Greek coins.
(D) A chronological succession from an indigenous coinage to a Hellenistic-influenced one.

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(D) 3, 1, 2, 4

54. The standard gold coin of the Gupta dynasty was known as:
(A) Rupaka
(B) Dinara
(C) Karshapana
(D) Pana

55. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The debasement of coinage, i.e., reducing the content of precious metal, often reflects a state of economic stress or crisis.
Statement II : The coinage of the later Guptas shows a marked decline in gold purity compared to that of the early Guptas.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

56. The legend 'Kalanjarapanjara' on a Chandella coin refers to the ruler's might associated with which famous fort?
(A) Kalinjar
(B) Gwalior
(C) Chittor
(D) Ranthambore

57. Which of these is NOT a symbol commonly found on punch-marked coins?
(A) Sun
(B) Six-armed symbol (Shad-ara-chakra)
(C) A realistic human portrait
(D) Hill with a crescent

58. The study of coin hoards is crucial for numismatists. What does a closed hoard typically signify?
(A) A collection of coins that were all in circulation at the same time, buried on a single occasion.
(B) A collection of coins from different periods buried over a long time.
(C) A hoard that has been tampered with by modern discoverers.
(D) A collection of counterfeit coins.

59. The 'Chhatra' (parasol) type of gold coins, showing the king being attended by a dwarf, was a notable issue of which Gupta emperor?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Kumaragupta I
(C) Skandagupta
(D) Chandragupta II

60. Consider the following statements regarding ancient Indian coins:
1. Punch-marked coins were the standard currency throughout the Gupta empire.
2. Indo-Greek coins were the first in India to carry portraits of kings.
3. The Satavahanas primarily issued gold coins.
4. The Kushanas adopted a weight standard for their gold coins based on the Roman aureus.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 3
(B) 2 and 4
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2, 3 and 4

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61. What is the primary reason for the historical importance of the coins of Menander I?
(A) They were the first gold coins minted in India.
(B) They were exclusively inscribed in the Brahmi script.
(C) Their vast number and wide distribution attest to a large and prosperous kingdom.
(D) They provide unique archaeological proof of his actual historical existence.

62. The 'seated goddess' type, which became a standard feature on the coins of many early medieval North Indian dynasties, was originally derived from:
(A) Kushana coins depicting Ardoksho.
(B) Satavahana coins with a female deity.
(C) Roman coins with a personification of Fortuna.
(D) Gupta coins showing Lakshmi.

63. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:

(B) Punching
(C) Striking
(D) Incusing

9. Which of the following dynasties is particularly known for issuing a large number of coins made of lead?
(A) Kushanas
(B) Guptas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Indo-Greeks

10. Match List I with List II regarding ancient Indian coins and their features.
List I: (Coin Feature)
P. Realistic portraits of kings
Q. Ship motif
R. Archer type gold coins
S. Five symbols on reverse
List II: (Associated Dynasty/Type)
1. Gupta
2. Punch-Marked Coins
3. Indo-Greek
4. Satavahana
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

11. An alloy of copper and tin, sometimes with lead or zinc, used for coinage by dynasties like the Satavahanas is referred to as:
(A) Electrum
(B) Billon
(C) Orichalcum
(D) Potin

12. Identify the incorrect statement about punch-marked coins.
(A) They were predominantly made of silver.
(B) They were manufactured using the die-striking technique.
(C) They typically feature multiple symbols punched on their surface.
(D) They are considered to be the earliest coins of India.

13. The coins issued by Janapadas and tribal republics often feature symbols related to their local identity. The presence of a tree-in-railing and the Ujjain symbol is common on:
(A) Yaudheya coins
(B) Kushana coins
(C) Un-inscribed cast coins
(D) Indo-Greek coins

14. Consider the following statements about Indo-Greek coinage:
1. They were the first to issue coins with realistic portraits of the rulers.
2. The coins were often bilingual, using Greek and Kharoshthi scripts.
3. They were exclusively made of gold.
4. The name of the issuing king is prominently mentioned.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 4
(B) 1, 3 and 4
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

15. What is the primary significance of the bilingual and bi-scriptual nature of Indo-Greek coins?
(A) It facilitated their use by both Greek and local Indian populations.
(B) It demonstrated an administrative lack of a single official language.
(C) It served as a technical measure to prevent illicit counterfeiting.
(D) It was mandated by the prevailing Roman maritime trade authorities.

16. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Kushana coinage shows a strong influence of Roman coin-types, particularly in its gold issues.
Statement II : The Kushana gold coins were of a similar weight standard to the Roman aureus.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

17. The coins of the Western Kshatrapas are particularly valuable for historical reconstruction because they:
(A) are the only source of their history.
(B) bear dates in the Saka era.

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72. The coins of the Kuninda tribe, found in the foothills of the Himalayas, are notable for their inscriptions and the depiction of which deity holding a trident?
(A) Siva
(B) Vishnu
(C) Indra
(D) Brahma

73. The study of coins helps in corroborating and sometimes correcting information from which other historical source?
(A) Oral traditions only
(B) Astronomical charts
(C) Literary and epigraphic texts
(D) Geological surveys

74. Consider the following statements about Roman coins found in India:
1. They were mostly gold and silver coins of the early Roman emperors.
2. They are found almost exclusively in North-Western India.
3. Many found coins are 'slashed', possibly to demonetize them and use them as bullion.
4. Their presence indicates a trade deficit for the Roman Empire.
5. They were often imitated by Kushana and Gupta mints.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 3, 4 and 5

75. What was the main purpose of placing dates on the coins of the Western Kshatrapas?
(A) To celebrate the ruler's birthday each year.
(B) To indicate the coin's expiry date for circulation.
(C) It was a decorative element with no historical meaning.
(D) To provide a precise chronological framework for their reigns.

76. King and Queen type coins, depicting Chandragupta I and Kumaradevi, are historically significant because they:
(A) were the first gold coins issued in India.
(B) suggest the political importance of the Lichchhavi alliance for the rise of the Guptas.
(C) were the only coins issued by the Gupta dynasty.
(D) were made of lead, a departure from tradition.

77. Arrange the following dynasties based on the primary metal of their most characteristic coinage, from base metal to precious metal.
1. Guptas
2. Satavahanas
3. Western Kshatrapas

(A) 2, 3, 1
(B) 1, 3, 2
(C) 3, 2, 1
(D) 2, 1, 3

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78. The term 'obverse' in numismatics refers to the:
(A) edge of the coin.
(B) 'tails' or secondary side of the coin.
(C) metal composition of the coin.
(D) 'heads' or principal side of the coin.

79. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The end of the Western Kshatrapa rule is numismatically documented by the silver coins of the Gupta king Chandragupta II.
Reason (R) : Chandragupta II issued silver coins for his western territories that closely imitated the style, weight, and fabric of the defeated Western Kshatrapas, but with his own symbols and titles.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

80. Which of the following is NOT a technique for manufacturing coins in ancient India?
(A) Punch-marking on silver bars
(B) Weaving metal threads into a disc

(C) Casting in terracotta moulds
(D) Die-striking on metal flans

81. The analysis of the metallic composition of coins primarily helps historians to understand:
(A) the religious beliefs of the issuing authority.
(B) the state of the economy and metallurgical skills.
(C) the language spoken by the king.
(D) the exact boundaries of the empire.

82. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Uninscribed cast copper coins are believed to have circulated alongside punch-marked silver coins.
Statement II : These two types of coins likely served different levels of economic transactions, with copper for smaller, local exchanges.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

83. The legend 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya' ('Victory of the Yaudheya Republic') on their coins is significant evidence for their:
(A) monarchical form of government.
(B) subjugation by the Kushanas.
(C) republican or tribal constitution.
(D) trade links with Rome.

84. Match List I with List II regarding ancient Indian dynasties and their dominant coinage materials.
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Kushana
Q. Satavahana
R. Gupta
S. Western Kshatrapa
List II: (Dominant Coinage Material)
1. Lead/Potin
2. Silver
3. Gold/Copper
4. Gold/Silver
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-4, S-2
(B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-3, S-4

85. A significant decline in the number of towns and the quality of coinage around the 7th-10th centuries CE in North India is often referred to by historians as the period of:
(A) Urban Revolution.
(B) Numismatic Renaissance.
(C) Urban Decay.
(D) Imperial Unity.

86. Which Gupta ruler issued the 'Rhinoceros-slayer' type of gold coin, a very rare type, likely to commemorate a hunt in Assam?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Kumaragupta I
(C) Chandragupta II
(D) Budhagupta

87. The coins of the Kushana ruler Vasudeva I are numismatically distinct from his predecessors because they overwhelmingly feature:
(A) a wide pantheon of Iranian deities.
(B) the king's portrait in a Roman style.
(C) legends written only in the Greek script.
(D) the Indian deity Siva and his bull, Nandi.

88. Consider the following statements about techniques of manufacturing coins:
1. Punch-marked coins were made by striking dies onto heated metal blanks.
2. Uninscribed cast coins were created by pouring molten copper into moulds.
3. The die-striking technique of the Indo-Greeks allowed for two-sided designs with high relief.
4. Alloys were used to economize on the use of precious metals.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1, 3 and 4
(D) All of the above

89. Why are punch-marked coins so named?
(A) They were punched with a hole to be worn as a necklace.
(B) They were made by punching out discs from a metal sheet.
(C) They bear several symbols, each punched from a separate punch.

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(D) The name of the king was punched onto the surface.

90. The find of a Roman coin hoard at Arikamedu in Puducherry confirms its status as a:
(A) major Indo-Roman trading port.
(B) Mauryan provincial capital.
(C) Gupta administrative center.
(D) Chola naval base.

91. Which of the following is a key feature that distinguishes Indo-Greek coinage from the earlier punch-marked coinage?
(A) Use of silver
(B) Rectangular shape
(C) Presence of geometric symbols
(D) Presence of the ruler's name and portrait

92. The Standard Type gold coin, which became the most common type for later Gupta kings, was first issued by:
(A) Chandragupta I
(B) Samudragupta
(C) Chandragupta II
(D) Skandagupta

93. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The earliest Indian coins were completely devoid of any inscriptions.
Statement II : The practice of inscribing the issuer's name on coins was introduced in India by the Indo-Greeks.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

94. The coins of which of the following tribal republics are often found in the region of modern-day Haryana and Rajasthan?
(A) Audumbaras
(B) Kunindas
(C) Pauravas
(D) Yaudheyas

95. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The coinage of early medieval India shows a general trend of debasement and a prestigious lack of artistic refinement compared to the Gupta period.
Reason (R) : The fragmentation of political power and decline in long-distance trade led to economic constraints on the issuing authorities.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

96. The depiction of the deity 'Ardoksho', the goddess of fortune, seated on a throne, is a common feature on the reverse of many coins of which dynasty?
(A) Satavahana
(B) Kushana
(C) Gupta
(D) Pala

97. The silver 'rupaka' of the Guptas was primarily intended for circulation in the western provinces, which were conquered from the:
(A) Western Kshatrapas
(B) Hunas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Satavahanas

98. Chronologically arrange the appearance of the following coin features in the Indian subcontinent:
1. Sanskrit legends in Brahmi script
2. Realistic royal portraits
3. Multiple aniconic symbols
4. Seated Goddess on the reverse
(A) 3, 2, 1, 4
(B) 2, 3, 4, 1
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

99. The use of Prakrit language in Kharoshthi or Brahmi scripts is a characteristic of the coins of which of the following dynasties?
(A) Guptas
(B) Cholas

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(A) Kujula Kadphises
(B) Vima Takto
(C) Vasudeva I
(D) Kanishka I

117. The portrait coins of the Satavahanas, issued by rulers like Vasisthiputra Pulumavi and Yajna Sri Satakarni, are distinct because they are:
(A) the first portrait coins issued in India.
(B) always square in shape.
(C) usually made of lead and feature bilingual legends.
(D) made of pure gold with Sanskrit inscriptions.

118. Which of the following is an incorrect statement about Gupta gold coins?
(A) They were called Dinars, a term borrowed from the Romans.
(B) They maintained high gold purity throughout the Gupta period without any debasement.
(C) They show a high level of artistic skill and sophisticated imagery.
(D) The legends were written in Sanskrit in the Brahmi script.

119. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The absence of coinage from a particular dynasty does not necessarily mean they did not have a flourishing economy.
Statement II : Other forms of exchange, including barter or the use of other dynasties' currencies, could have been prevalent.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

120. A coin series issued by the Kalachuris of Tripuri, featuring a seated goddess on one side and a legend in Nagari on the other, is an example of:
(A) Early Medieval Indian coinage.
(B) Indo-Greek coinage.
(C) Kushana coinage.
(D) Tribal coinage.

121. What is the primary historical value of Janapada and tribal coins?
(A) They provide clear proof for the presence of Roman trade throughout all regions of the subcontinent.
(B) They serve as the earliest known archaeological examples of standardized gold coinage in India.
(C) They offer vital evidence for various local states and autonomous groups often omitted in literature.
(D) They demonstrate that all independent Janapadas utilized a single, highly unified currency system.

122. Arrange the following events in Indian numismatic history in chronological order:
1. Issuance of 'Ship-type' coins by the Satavahanas.
2. Introduction of die-struck coinage by the Indo-Greeks.
3. Widespread circulation of punch-marked silver coins.
4. Issuance of 'Archer-type' gold coins by the Guptas.

(A) 3, 2, 1, 4
(B) 2, 3, 1, 4
(C) 3, 1, 2, 4
(D) 1, 3, 2, 4

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123. The 'Bull and Horseman' type of coin became a very common motif in North India during the early medieval period, issued by dynasties like the Shahi kings of Kabul and Punjab. This type shows a continuity of:
(A) Roman influence.
(B) Gupta artistic style.
(C) Mauryan symbolism.
(D) Kushana-Sassanian traditions.

124. The metrology of coins, a branch of numismatics, is concerned with their:
(A) artistic symbols.
(B) weight and measurements.
(C) find spots.
(D) script and language.

125. Consider the following pairs:
1. Kushanas : Predominantly Siva and Nandi on coins
2. Satavahanas : Ship and Ujjain symbol on coins

3. Bharatpur-Alwar region (Rajasthan)
4. Sutlej-Yamuna divide (Haryana/Punjab)

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

109. What is the most likely reason for the Kushanas depicting a wide range of deities on their coins?
(A) To demonstrate their monotheistic beliefs.
(B) It was a random selection of artistic motifs with no religious meaning.
(C) To appeal to the diverse ethnic and religious groups within their vast empire.
(D) They were forced to do so by the Roman empire.

110. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : Gupta silver coinage began relatively late in the dynasty's history, primarily under Chandragupta II.
Reason (R) : The need for a silver currency arose only after the Guptas conquered the western regions of India where silver coinage, issued by the Western Kshatrapas, was prevalent.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

111. Which dynasty's coins are characterized by the Ujjain symbol on the reverse, often in combination with other symbols like a hill or a tree?
(A) Satavahanas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Guptas
(D) Pandyas

112. In the context of Early Medieval Indian coinage, what did the coins of this period primarily suggest?
(A) Numismatic innovation and high artistic standards.
(B) Regionalization and general decline in the quality of coins.
(C) Widespread use of high-purity gold currency.
(D) The complete disappearance of coinage in favor of barter.

113. Consider the following statements about ancient Indian coinage:
1. The earliest punch-marked coins were irregular in shape.
2. The weight of punch-marked coins was often more important than their shape.
3. The symbols on punch-marked coins represented the authority of the issuer.
4. All punch-marked coins were made of copper.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3
(B) 2, 3 and 4
(C) 1 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

114. The frequent depiction of a horse on 'Ashvamedha' type coins and a peacock on 'Kartikeya' type coins falls under which aspect of numismatic study?
(A) Iconography
(B) Metrology
(C) Palaeography
(D) Metallurgy

115. A coin made of an alloy of silver and copper, with the copper content being dominant, is known as:
(A) Potin
(B) Electrum
(C) Billon
(D) Brass

116. The transition in Kushana coinage from using Greek script alone to also using a modified Greek (Bactrian) script to write a native language occurred under which ruler?
Statement I : Kujula Kadphises
Statement II : Vima Takto
Statement III: Vasudeva I
Statement IV: Kanishka I

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3. The symbols and deities on them throw light on the religious leanings of the time.
4. The metal used and its purity indicates the economic condition of the kingdom.
5. The legends on coins can preserve the titles and achievements of rulers.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 4 and 5 only
(C) 1, 3 and 5 only
(D) All of the above

171. The analysis of a coin hoard where the latest coin is of a particular ruler helps in establishing the:
(A) exact birth date of that ruler.
(B) total number of coins minted by that ruler.
(C) 'terminus ante quem' (date before which) for the start of his reign.
(D) 'terminus post quem' (date after which) for the burial of the hoard.

172. The use of a Brahmi legend on the obverse and a Kharoshthi legend on the reverse is a characteristic feature of the portrait coins of some rulers of which dynasty?
(A) Guptas
(B) Satavahanas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Mauryas

173. The minting technique that involves striking a piece of metal with a series of separate punches, each bearing a different symbol, is called:
(A) Casting
(B) Die-striking
(C) Punch-marking
(D) Engraving

174. Which of the following is NOT a type of Gupta gold coin?
(A) Archer type
(B) Lyrist type
(C) Ashvamedha type
(D) Ship type

175. The origin and antiquity of coinage in ancient India are generally traced back to the:
(A) Mahajanapada period, around the 6th century BCE.
(B) Vedic period, with clear evidence of minted coins.
(C) Harappan civilization, where inscribed seals were used as coins.
(D) Kushana period, with the introduction of gold coins.

176. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Roman coins found in India are evidence of Roman rule over parts of the subcontinent.
Statement II : These coins were commodities or bullion, obtained through trade, and were not legal tender issued by a local Indian authority.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

177. The decline in the artistic quality and metallic purity of the later Gupta coinage is often attributed to the invasions of the:
(A) Greeks
(B) Hunas
(C) Sakas
(D) Kushanas

178. Match List I with List II regarding numismatic terms and their meanings.
List I: (Numismatic Term)
P. Obverse
Q. Reverse
R. Legend
S. Metrology
List II: (Meaning)
1. The inscription or writing on the coin
2. The study of weights and measures of coins
3. The principal or 'heads' side of the coin
4. The secondary or 'tails' side of the coin
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

179. A coin depicting a king on the obverse and a fire altar on the reverse would most likely show influence from which culture?
(A) Roman

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3. Guptas : King's portrait and dates in Saka era
4. Indo-Greeks : Bilingual and bi-scriptual legends

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(A) 1 and 3 only
(B) 2 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 4
(D) 2, 3 and 4

126. A coin of Gautamiputra Satakarni is found restruck over a coin of the Kshatrapa king Nahapana. This is direct evidence of:
(A) a marriage alliance between the two dynasties.
(B) a trade agreement.
(C) the merger of the two kingdoms.
(D) Gautamiputra's victory over Nahapana.

127. Which of the following statements best describes the state of coinage in the early medieval period?
(A) Coinage became highly regional, with many dynasties issuing their own distinct types, often of debased metal.
(B) A uniform, pan-Indian currency was successfully established.
(C) Gold coinage disappeared completely, replaced by barter.
(D) The artistic quality of coins surpassed that of the Gupta era.

128. Match List I with List II regarding ancient coin types and their distinctive features.
List I: (Coin Type)
P. Punch-Marked Coin
Q. Indo-Greek Coin
R. Kushana Coin
S. Gupta Coin
List II: (Distinctive Feature)
1. Realistic Royal Portrait
2. Sanskrit legend and Lakshmi on reverse
3. Multiple symbols, no legend
4. Diverse pantheon of gods (Greek, Iranian, Indian)

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-3, S-2

129. The introduction of gold coinage on a significant scale in ancient India is attributed to the:
(A) Mauryas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Indo-Greeks
(D) Guptas

130. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The find-spots of Roman coins are concentrated in Southern India rather than the North.
Reason (R) : The maritime trade route connecting Roman Egypt with the ports of the Deccan and South India was more voluminous for high-value goods than the overland northern routes.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

131. The silver coins issued by Chandragupta II after his conquest of the Western Satraps are important because they:
(A) were the first coins ever issued by the Guptas.
(B) were made of pure gold instead of silver.
(C) adopted the weight standard and general style of the defeated enemy.
(D) featured legends in Greek and Kharoshthi.

132. Which one of the following was NOT a major type of coin prevalent in ancient India?
(A) Punch-marked coins
(B) Cast coins
(C) Die-struck coins
(D) Porcelain coins

133. Consider the following statements about Janapada coins:
1. They represent the coinage of early territorial states.

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(C) Satavahanas
(D) Palas

100. Consider the following statements regarding Gupta coinage:
1. Gold coins were called Dinaras and silver coins were called Rupakas.
2. The obverse usually depicted the reigning monarch in various martial or cultural poses.
3. The reverse of gold coins often featured a goddess, usually Lakshmi, seated on a lotus.
4. The legends on the coins were typically written in Prakrit using the Kharoshthi script.
5. Kumaragupta I issued the largest variety of coin types, including the Elephant-rider and Peacock types.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 3 and 5
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 2 and 4
(D) All of the above

101. What does the term 'flan' or 'blank' signify in the context of coin manufacturing?
(A) The die used to strike the coin.
(B) The furnace for melting metal.
(C) The prepared, un-struck piece of metal on which the coin design is impressed.
(D) A counterfeit coin.

102. The Indo-Scythian (Saka) and Indo-Parthian kings who ruled in North-Western India issued coins that were stylistically derived from the coinage of the:
(A) Mauryas
(B) Indo-Greeks
(C) Guptas
(D) Satavahanas

103. The practice of counter-marking or over-striking an existing coin by a new authority was a way to:
(A) improve the artistic quality of the coin.
(B) increase the metallic value of the coin.
(C) correct a mistake in the original minting process.
(D) re-validate a coin for circulation and assert new sovereignty.

104. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Kushana coinage?
(A) The exclusive use of Brahmi script and Sanskrit language.
(B) Depiction of the king emerging from clouds or flames.
(C) Use of Greek, Iranian, and Indian deities.
(D) A weight standard for gold coins similar to the Roman aureus.

105. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The discovery of coin moulds at sites like an ancient mint confirms the use of the casting technique for coin production.
Statement II : Cast coins are generally considered artistically superior to die-struck coins due to their fine details.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

106. The Lion-slayer coin type of Chandragupta II was likely issued to commemorate his victory over which power in western India?
(A) The Western Kshatrapas
(B) The Kushanas
(C) The Hunas
(D) The Satavahanas

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107. The study of inscriptions on coins is known as:
(A) Iconography
(B) Metrology
(C) Stratigraphy
(D) Numismatic palaeography

108. Match List I with List II regarding ancient tribal republics and the regions where their coins are found.
List I: (Tribal Republic)
P. Yaudheyas
Q. Kunindas
R. Audumbaras
S. Arjunayanas
List II: (Region of Coin Finds)
1. Pathankot region (Punjab/HP)
2. Ambala-Saharanpur region (Garhwal/UP)

(D) economic strain on the empire, possibly due to invasions by the Hunas.

143. Which of the following is NOT a correct match between a dynasty and its characteristic coinage?
(A) Guptas - King's bust with dates in Saka era
(B) Indo-Greeks - Realistic portraits
(C) Kushanas - Syncretic pantheon of deities
(D) Satavahanas - Ship motif

144. In a hypothetical scenario, a large number of Gupta gold coins are found in a region far beyond the known political boundaries of the Gupta empire. The best interpretation would be that this indicates:
(A) a military expedition and conquest of that region.
(B) the circulation of coins through long-distance trade routes.
(C) the migration of Gupta-era minters to that area.
(D) the coins were forgeries made in that region.

145. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : Punch-marked coins are found over a vast geographical area of the Indian subcontinent.
Reason (R) : The Mauryan empire, with its extensive territory, likely facilitated the circulation of a standardized punch-marked currency.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

146. The figure of a goddess, likely Lakshmi, seated on a lotus, is a common reverse device on the gold coins of which dynasty?
(A) Guptas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Early Medieval Rajputs

147. Which period would be the primary focus of the study of Early Medieval Indian coinage?
(A) 300 BCE to 100 BCE
(B) 50 CE to 300 CE
(C) 600 CE to 1200 CE
(D) 320 CE to 550 CE

148. The practice of writing the king's name and titles around the portrait on a coin was a numismatic tradition started in India by the:
(A) Mauryas
(B) Sungas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Indo-Greeks

149. Match List I with List II regarding Gupta coin types and the rulers who prominently issued them.
List I: (Gupta Coin Type)
P. King and Queen Type
Q. Lyrist Type
R. Chhatra (Umbrella) Type
S. Kartikeya Type
List II: (Ruler who prominently issued it)
1. Samudragupta
2. Kumaragupta I
3. Chandragupta I
4. Chandragupta II
Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

150. The term 'Karshapana' in ancient Indian texts often refers to:
(A) a standard gold coin of the Gupta period.
(B) a silver or copper punch-marked coin.
(C) a Roman denarius.
(D) a lead coin of the Satavahanas.

151. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The coinage of the Yaudheyas celebrated their military prowess with legends like 'Victory of the Yaudheyas'.
Statement II : The Yaudheyas were a peaceful, non-martial tribe that focused only on agriculture.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

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2. They were all die-struck with portraits of the rulers.
3. Coins of Gandhara Janapada are often bar-shaped punch-marked coins.
4. They predate the establishment of the Mauryan empire.
5. They were exclusively made of gold.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 3 and 4
(B) 2, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 3 and 5 only

134. The 'Fan-tailed Peacock' (or Kartikeya) type of gold and silver coins was a distinctive issue of which Gupta emperor?
(A) Samudragupta
(B) Kumaragupta I
(C) Chandragupta II
(D) Skandagupta

135. The use of Kharoshthi script on the coins of North-Western India (by Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas) is a legacy of the influence of which earlier empire in that region?
(A) Mauryan Empire
(B) Roman Empire
(C) Gupta Empire
(D) Achaemenid Persian Empire

136. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Kushana king Vasudeva I's coins show a marked Indianisation compared to his predecessors.
Statement II : The majority of his coins feature the deity Siva with his bull Nandi, and the king's name is a popular Indian one.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

137. Which technique of coin manufacture allows for the greatest uniformity, detail, and two-sided design?
(A) Punch-marking
(B) Hand-hammering
(C) Die-striking
(D) Casting

138. The legend on the coins of the Audumbara tribe makes a reference to the sage:
(A) Vishvamitra
(B) Agastya
(C) Vasishtha
(D) Atri

139. The term 'debasement' in numismatics refers to the practice of:
(A) increasing the weight of a coin.
(B) improving the artistic quality of a coin's design.
(C) officially withdrawing a coin from circulation.
(D) reducing the proportion of precious metal in a coin's alloy.

140. Consider the following statements about Satavahana coinage:
1. Lead was a very common metal for their coins.
2. Portrait coins in silver were issued, especially by later rulers.
3. The 'ship' motif is a well-known feature on some of their coins.
4. All their coins have legends in Sanskrit only.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

141. The main difference between inscribed and uninscribed cast coins lies in the:
(A) metal used for their production.
(B) manufacturing technique.
(C) presence or absence of a written legend.
(D) geographical area of their circulation.

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142. The coins of the later Gupta rulers, such as Skandagupta and his successors, show a noticeable decline in gold content. This is generally interpreted as a sign of:
(A) increasing prosperity and a shift to a silver-based economy.
(B) a new minting technology that required less gold.
(C) a deliberate policy to make coins more affordable for the poor.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 3
(B) 2 and 4
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) 2, 3 and 4

161. The title 'Mahakshatrapa' found on Saka coins indicates the status of a:
(A) tribal chief.
(B) 'great satrap' or senior provincial governor.
(C) paramount emperor.
(D) city administrator.

162. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : Gupta gold coins are celebrated for their artistic excellence.
Reason (R) : They depict the rulers in a variety of activities like hunting, playing music, or performing sacrifices, which provide insights into royal ideology and culture.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

163. The widespread discovery of uninscribed cast copper coins suggests:
(A) they were a high-value currency for international trade.
(B) they were used exclusively for religious offerings.
(C) they were used for everyday, small-value transactions.
(D) they were a failed experiment in coinage.

164. The earliest phase of Kushana coinage under Kujula Kadphises is characterized by:
(A) large gold coins with Sanskrit legends.
(B) silver portrait coins with dates in the Saka era.
(C) lead coins with the ship motif.
(D) imitations of the coins of Roman and late Indo-Greek rulers.

165. The coins of the Yaudheyas, a martial tribe, frequently depict which war-god along with his spear (sakti)?
(A) Indra
(B) Varuna
(C) Kartikeya (Skanda)
(D) Agni

166. A numismatist studying a coin focuses on its 'palaeography'. What is she analyzing?
(A) The weight and dimensions of the coin.
(B) The style and form of the script used in the coin's legend.
(C) The metallic composition of the coin.
(D) The symbols and portraits on the coin.

167. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The Gupta silver coin was called a Rupaka.
Statement II : The Gupta gold coin was called a Dinara.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

168. The Bull and Horseman coin type, which was very popular in early medieval North India, was first introduced by the:
(A) Shahis of Kabul
(B) Guptas
(C) Palas
(D) Rashtrakutas

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169. What is the most significant contribution of Indo-Greek coinage to the Indian numismatic tradition?
(A) The introduction of gold as a coinage metal.
(B) The use of the punch-marking technique.
(C) The concept of issuing coins with the name and individualized portrait of the ruler.
(D) The creation of lead and potin coins.

170. Consider the following statements regarding the historical value of coins:
1. They help in reconstructing genealogies and chronologies of dynasties.
2. Their find-spots help in determining the extent of an empire.

(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

152. Which of the following is the most accurate statement regarding the metals used in ancient Indian coinage?
(A) Silver, copper, gold, and alloys like lead and potin were all used by various dynasties depending on the period and purpose.
(B) Gold was the only metal used for all coins until the medieval period.
(C) All ancient Indian coins were made of a uniform alloy of silver and gold known as electrum.
(D) Iron was the most common metal for high-value coinage due to its strength.

153. The coins of the Kalachuri dynasty, an early medieval power, are typically characterized by:
(A) realistic portraits of the kings.
(B) the use of Greek legends.
(C) the seated goddess motif on the reverse.
(D) being made exclusively of pure silver.

154. Consider the following information related to a specific coin type:
1. They are primarily made of silver.
2. The obverse shows a bust of the king.
3. The reverse has a chaitya or hill symbol.
4. Crucially, they contain dates recorded in the Saka era.

This description best fits the coinage of which dynasty?
(A) Guptas
(B) Kushanas
(C) Western Kshatrapas
(D) Satavahanas

155. The presence of Roman coins, especially those of the Julio-Claudian emperors, in South India is a testament to the lucrative trade in:
(A) silk and horses.
(B) wheat and barley.
(C) iron weapons and armour.
(D) spices, pepper, and precious stones.

156. The 'bent-bar' coins, among the earliest types of punch-marked currency, are typically associated with which ancient Janapada?
(A) Panchala
(B) Gandhara
(C) Kuru
(D) Magadha

157. Which of the following is a distinguishing feature of Kushana coinage under Kanishka I and Huvishka?
(A) The complete absence of the king's image.
(B) Inscriptions written exclusively in the Brahmi script.
(C) The use of a very diverse pantheon of deities on the reverse.
(D) The use of lead as the primary metal for coinage.

158. The silver coinage of the Guptas, first introduced for their western territories, closely mimicked the coins of their predecessors in the region, the:
(A) Indo-Greeks
(B) Kushanas
(C) Satavahanas
(D) Sakas (Western Kshatrapas)

159. Which of the following statements about early medieval coinage is incorrect?
(A) A uniform gold currency of high purity was established across India.
(B) Many dynasties, like the Kalachuris and Chandellas, adopted the 'seated goddess' type.
(C) There was a general debasement of the metallic currency.
(D) The 'Gadhaiya' coinage was prevalent in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

160. Consider the following statements about coin manufacturing techniques:
1. Casting involved creating a mould, often from clay, into which molten metal was poured.
2. The punch-marking technique involved using a single die to strike the entire design at once.
3. Die-striking, as used by Indo-Greeks, produced sharper and more uniform coins than casting.
4. Potin is a high-purity gold alloy used for special commemorative issues.

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(B) Greek
(C) Sassanian (Persian)
(D) Chinese

180. The coinage of the Satavahanas is particularly diverse in terms of the:
(A) number of rulers who issued gold coins.
(B) use of Sanskrit language exclusively.
(C) realistic portraits on all their coins.
(D) materials used, including lead, potin, copper, and silver.

181. What historical process is indicated by the Kushana coinage that features deities like Helios (Greek), Mithra (Iranian), and Siva (Indian)?
(A) Religious persecution
(B) Economic isolation
(C) Cultural syncretism
(D) Political fragmentation

182. Which of these dynasties is known for its extensive series of silver coins featuring the king's bust and a legend that includes the date of issue?
(A) Satavahanas
(B) Western Kshatrapas
(C) Guptas
(D) Kushanas

183. Consider the following statements about punch-marked coins:
1. They are India's earliest coins.
2. They were typically made of silver.
3. They are characterized by a set of symbols punched on them.
4. They always carry the name of the issuing king in Brahmi script.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

184. The 'dramma' was a coin denomination common in which period of Indian history?
(A) Early Medieval
(B) Mauryan
(C) Gupta
(D) Harappan

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185. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The Indo-Greek kings issued a remarkable series of coins with realistic portraits.
Reason (R) : This was a continuation of the Hellenistic tradition of realistic portraiture on coins, which was new to the Indian subcontinent.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

186. The silver coins of the Guptas were a direct consequence of their victory over the:
(A) Sakas (Western Kshatrapas) in the west.
(B) Kushanas in the north.
(C) Satavahanas in the Deccan.
(D) Palas in the east.

187. The study of the distribution pattern of a particular coin type helps historians to:
(A) understand the metallurgy of the coin.
(B) read the legend on the coin.
(C) determine the personal religion of the king.
(D) delineate the sphere of influence of the issuing power.

188. Which of the following is the best description of Janapada coins?
(A) Coins issued by the Mauryan emperor for the entire country.
(B) Coins issued by various early local kingdoms and republics before the Mauryan consolidation.
(C) The first gold coins issued in India.
(D) Coins issued by foreign invaders like the Greeks.

189. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : Vima Kadphises was the first Kushana ruler to issue gold coins in large numbers.
Statement II : The early coins of Kujula Kadphises were primarily in copper and were

208. The 'Standard type' of Samudragupta's gold coins depicts the king:
(A) playing a lyre.
(B) holding a standard (banner) and making an offering at an altar.
(C) on horseback.
(D) slaying a tiger with a bow.

209. The coin famine in early medieval India refers to:
(A) a period where coins were extremely large and heavy.
(B) a scarcity of coinage in circulation, especially in certain regions of North India.
(C) the complete replacement of metal coins with paper money.
(D) a government ban on the private hoarding of coins.

210. The manufacturing technique of punch-marked coins involved:
(A) impressing several individual symbols onto a metal sheet using separate punches.
(B) pouring molten metal into a single, complete mould.
(C) striking a blank piece of metal between two engraved dies.
(D) engraving the design onto each coin by hand.

211. Which ruler's coins provide the crucial evidence for the end of the long-ruling Western Kshatrapa dynasty?
(A) Samudragupta's Ashvamedha coins.
(B) Skandagupta's debased gold coins.
(C) Chandragupta II's silver coins imitating Kshatrapa types.
(D) Kumaragupta I's Kartikeya type coins.

212. The term 'alloy' in coinage refers to:
(A) a coin that has been officially recalled.
(B) the protective casing for a valuable coin.
(C) the process of cleaning old coins.
(D) a mixture of two or more metals.

213. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The artistic quality of Gupta gold coins is generally considered superior to that of Kushana gold coins.
Statement II : Gupta coins incorporated Indian aesthetics and Sanskrit legends, moving away from the Graeco-Roman-Iranian style of the Kushanas.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

214. The coins issued by the autonomous tribal republics like the Audumbaras, Kunindas, and Yaudheyas are important sources for the history of:
(A) the Mauryan central administration.
(B) regions and polities outside the major imperial systems.
(C) maritime trade with Southeast Asia.
(D) the Pala and Sena dynasties.

215. The 'seated goddess' motif, which became extremely common on early medieval coins, was a direct imitation of the reverse of which dynasty's coinage?
(A) Satavahana
(B) Kushana
(C) Indo-Greek
(D) Gupta

216. Consider the following statements about coin alloys:
1. 'Billon' is a silver-copper alloy with more copper than silver.
2. 'Potin' is a copper-tin alloy, sometimes with lead.
3. Alloys were used to harden coins and make them more durable.
4. Alloys were also used to economize on precious metals during times of financial stress.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 3 and 4 only
(C) 1, 2 and 3 only
(D) All of the above

217. The transition from aniconic punch-marked coins to coins bearing royal portraits was a major shift in Indian numismatic history brought about by the:
(A) Mauryas

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(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

200. Match List I with List II regarding ancient dynasties and their key numismatic features.
List I: (Dynasty)
P. Satavahana
Q. Indo-Greek
R. Western Kshatrapa
S. Gupta
List II: (Key Numismatic Feature)
1. First to issue coins with royal portraits
2. Use of dates from the Saka era
3. 'Archer' type gold coins
4. Predominant use of lead for coinage
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

201. Which historical development is best illustrated by the coins of Kanishka I featuring deities like Buddha, Siva, Helios, and Mithra?
(A) The king's confusion about his personal faith.
(B) A law mandating the representation of all known gods.
(C) The religious tolerance and multicultural environment of the Kushana empire.
(D) A decline in the quality of die-engraving.

202. The silver coins of Chandragupta II, which imitated the Saka-Kshatrapa coinage, are an excellent example of numismatic evidence for:
(A) political conquest and administrative continuity.
(B) a peaceful trade treaty.
(C) a cultural exchange program.
(D) the adoption of the Saka religion.

203. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The earliest Indian coins, the punch-marked coins, feature detailed portraits of the issuing monarchs.
Statement II : The tradition of issuing portrait coins was introduced to India by the Indo-Greeks.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

204. The symbols on punch-marked coins, such as the sun, a six-armed symbol, a hill, and a fish, are believed to represent:
(A) random decorative patterns.
(B) a combination of dynastic, official, and mint marks.
(C) different denominations of the coin.
(D) instructions on how to use the coin.

205. The discovery of a large number of Roman gold and silver coins in South India, and the corresponding lack of Indian coins in the Roman empire, indicates that:
(A) India had an unfavorable balance of trade with Rome.
(B) Indian merchants preferred to use Roman coins locally.
(C) Rome paid for Indian goods like spices and textiles in precious metal.
(D) The Romans established mints in South India.

206. Consider the following attributes of a coin series:
1. Made of lead, potin, and copper.
2. Some rulers issued silver portrait coins.
3. Legends are in Prakrit language.
4. Common symbols include the elephant, lion, and ship.
5. The 'Ujjain Symbol' is frequently seen on the reverse.

Which of the above statements correctly describe the coinage of a specific dynasty?
(A) Kushanas
(B) Guptas
(C) Mauryas
(D) Satavahanas

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207. Which of the following is an identifying feature of the coinage of the Yaudheya tribe?
(A) The deity Kartikeya with a spear and the legend 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya'.
(B) A ship with two masts.
(C) A realistic portrait of the ruler.
(D) A seated goddess Lakshmi on a lotus.

228. The 'dramma' and 'vimsopaka' were coin denominations mentioned in the epigraphic and literary records of which period?
(A) The Sangam Age
(B) The Gupta Period
(C) The Mauryan Period
(D) The Early Medieval Period

229. Consider the following statements about different coin manufacturing methods:
1. Punch-marking was suitable for aniconic, symbol-based currency.
2. Casting was an efficient method for producing large quantities of low-denomination copper coins.
3. Die-striking allowed for detailed portraits and complex, two-sided designs.
4. The Indo-Greeks introduced the punch-marking technique to India.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3
(C) 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above

230. The Chakravikrama type of coin, a unique gold issue of Chandragupta II, depicts:
(A) the king hunting a rhinoceros.
(B) the king receiving prasada from the god Vishnu.
(C) the king playing a vina.
(D) the king performing the Ashvamedha sacrifice.

231. The discovery of Satavahana coins in the western, central, and eastern Deccan helps to:
(A) prove their control over the entire Indian subcontinent.
(B) confirm that they only used gold for coinage.
(C) establish their origin in the Gangetic valley.
(D) map the extent of their political influence and commercial reach.

232. The city-states and tribal republics whose coins are found from the pre-Mauryan and Mauryan period are collectively referred to as issuers of:
(A) Janapada and Tribal coinage.
(B) Gupta coinage.
(C) Early Medieval coinage.
(D) Roman-imitation coinage.

233. The debasement of Skandagupta's gold coinage is direct numismatic evidence for the:
(A) growing prosperity of the Gupta empire.
(B) shift from a gold to a silver standard by choice.
(C) economic crisis faced by the empire, likely due to Huna wars.
(D) lack of skilled minters in the later Gupta period.

234. Match List I with List II regarding numismatic features and the dynasties that first introduced them in India.
List I: (Coin Feature)
P. Portrait of the King
Q. Date on the coin
R. Gold currency on a large scale
S. Sanskrit legend on a gold coin
List II: (First Introduced in India by)
1. Kushanas
2. Guptas
3. Indo-Greeks
4. Sakas (Western Kshatrapas)

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

235. The 'Gadhaiya' coins of early medieval western India are a prime example of:
(A) high-quality portrait coinage.
(B) the first use of copper in Indian coinage.
(C) coins issued for trade with China.
(D) a long process of typological degeneration from an earlier prototype.

236. The lion, elephant, hill (chaitya), and especially the ship, are prominent symbols on the coins of which major dynasty?
(A) Guptas
(B) Satavahanas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Mauryas

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(B) Guptas
(C) Indo-Greeks
(D) Kushanas

218. The vast majority of Roman coins found in India belong to the period of the:
(A) Early Roman Empire (1st-2nd centuries CE).
(B) Roman Republic.
(C) Late Roman Empire (4th-5th centuries CE).
(D) Byzantine Empire.

219. The 'Horseman' type of coin, showing the king on a caparisoned horse, was a popular motif used by which dynasty?
(A) Satavahanas
(B) Mauryas
(C) Pandyas
(D) Guptas

220. The primary purpose of casting as a coin manufacturing technique was likely to:
(A) produce coins with the highest artistic detail.
(B) mass-produce low-value copper currency quickly and cheaply.
(C) create very large, high-value gold coins.
(D) ensure that no two coins were identical.

221. Arrange the following in the chronological order of their appearance on coins in India.
1. King's name in Sanskrit
2. King's name in Greek
3. Complete absence of any king's name
4. King's name in Prakrit
(A) 3, 2, 4, 1
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 3, 4, 2, 1
(D) 1, 2, 3, 4

222. The square shape of some ancient Indian coins, particularly cast copper coins and some tribal issues, represents:
(A) a mistake in the minting process.
(B) a continuity from the shape of Harappan seals.
(C) an influence from Chinese coinage.
(D) a deliberate alternative to the more common round shape.

223. What is the most plausible reason for the Kushanas adopting a weight standard for their gold coins that was very close to the Roman aureus?
(A) To facilitate international trade along the Silk Road where Roman currency was a known standard.
(B) To pay tribute to the Roman emperor.
(C) It was a random coincidence.
(D) The Kushana system of weights and measures was identical to the Roman system in all respects.

224. Which of the following is a defining characteristic of a punch-marked coin?
(A) A single, unified design struck from one die.
(B) Multiple, separate symbols impressed on the surface.
(C) A realistic portrait of the ruler.
(D) A legend written in Sanskrit.

225. The study of Numismatics can provide reliable evidence for all of the following, EXCEPT:
(A) The script and language in use.
(B) The personal thoughts and diary entries of a king.
(C) The economic prosperity of a kingdom.
(D) The extent of a kingdom's trade contacts.

226. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The silver coins of the Gupta dynasty are original in design and do not show any external influence.
Statement II : Gupta silver coins were closely modeled on the coinage of the Western Kshatrapas whom they conquered.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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227. The legend 'Devaputra Shahi' on Kushana coins reflects their claim to:
(A) descent from a Brahmin sage.
(B) be followers of the Buddha.
(C) divine kingship, possibly influenced by Chinese and Roman traditions.
(D) be the rightful successors of the Mauryas.

imitations of earlier rulers' coins.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

190. The 'Archer' type became the most common and standard gold coin type for which dynasty?
(A) Kushanas
(B) Satavahanas
(C) Mauryas
(D) Guptas

191. The primary material for uninscribed cast coins was:
(A) Copper
(B) Gold
(C) Silver
(D) Lead

192. Which element on the coins of the Western Kshatrapas is of immense value for establishing a precise chronology of their rule?
(A) The portrait of the king.
(B) The date in the Saka era.
(C) The name of the king's father.
(D) The symbol of the three-arched hill.

193. The coins of the Chandellas, a Rajput clan of the early medieval period, are typically made of:
(A) Gold and silver only
(B) Debased gold, silver, and copper
(C) Lead and potin
(D) Nickel and zinc

194. Consider the following statements about the sources of metals for coinage:
1. Silver for punch-marked coins may have come from mines in Rajasthan or Afghanistan.
2. The gold for Kushana coins was largely obtained through trade with the Roman Empire.
3. The lead for Satavahana coins was sourced from the Deccan Traps region.
4. All metals for coinage were exclusively imported from outside India.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1 and 4
(B) 2 and 3
(C) 1, 2 and 3
(D) All of the above

195. The 'Gadhaiya paisa', a type of early medieval coinage, is believed to be a crude imitation of:
(A) Gupta gold dinars.
(B) Roman denarii.
(C) Sassanian-inspired bust and fire-altar coins.
(D) Satavahana ship-type coins.

196. Which Gupta emperor's coins feature the legend 'Apratiratha' (invincible warrior)?
(A) Chandragupta I
(B) Ramagupta
(C) Skandagupta
(D) Samudragupta

197. The bilingual and bi-script (Greek and Kharoshthi/Brahmi) nature of coins from the Indo-Greek and Satavahana period was a practical measure for:
(A) artistic decoration.
(B) preventing forgery.
(C) ensuring they could be understood by a multicultural populace.
(D) fulfilling a religious requirement.

198. The 'repoussé' technique, sometimes mentioned in relation to coinage, is a method of:
(A) casting metal in a mould.
(B) creating a design in relief by hammering from the reverse side.
(C) striking a coin with a die.
(D) creating an alloy of different metals.

199. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : The quality and quantity of coinage in Northern India saw a marked decline after the fall of the Gupta Empire.
Reason (R) : The period was marked by political instability and a disruption in the long-distance trade networks that had previously supplied precious metals.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

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237. The 'Bactrian camel' is a rare but significant motif found on the coins of which dynasty, hinting at their Central Asian origins?
(A) Guptas
(B) Satavahanas
(C) Kushanas
(D) Palas

238. Given below are two statements, one labeled as Assertion (A) and the other labeled as Reason (R). Select the correct answer from the options given below:
Assertion (A) : Coins are a more reliable source than literary texts for constructing the political history of the Indo-Greeks.
Reason (R) : Many Indo-Greek rulers are known to us solely from their coins, as they are not mentioned in any surviving literary source.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

239. The gradual Indianization of the Kushana coinage is best seen in the transition from:
(A) a pantheon of Greek and Iranian gods to a predominance of the Indian god Siva.
(B) using only silver to using only gold.
(C) using Brahmi script to using Greek script.
(D) aniconic symbols to realistic portraits.

240. The term 'die' in the context of die-striking refers to:
(A) the molten metal used to make the coin.
(B) an engraved stamp used to impress a design onto the coin blank.
(C) the furnace where the metal is heated.
(D) a counterfeit coin that has been removed from circulation.

241. Read the following statements and select the correct option:
Statement I : The weight standard of Gupta gold dinars was initially based on the Kushana standard.
Statement II : Over time, the Guptas increased the weight of their gold coins to a new local standard.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

242. The most significant information derived from the study of Western Kshatrapa coins is:
(A) their precise regnal chronology from the dates on the coins.
(B) their religious philosophy.
(C) their architectural achievements.
(D) their literary patronage.

243. Consider the following statements about early coinage in India:
1. The earliest coins were punch-marked, mostly made of silver.
2. Uninscribed cast coins, mostly of copper, were also in circulation.
3. The die-striking technique was introduced by the Indo-Greeks.
4. The Satavahanas were the first to issue gold coins in India.
5. Janapada coins represent the currency of early states and tribes.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 2, 4 and 5
(B) 2, 3, 4 and 5
(C) 1, 2, 3 and 5
(D) 1, 3 and 4

244. A coin depicting a ruler performing the Ashvamedha sacrifice is a clear numismatic statement of:
(A) the ruler's devotion to Vishnu.
(B) the ruler's skill as a musician.
(C) the ruler's victory over a foreign enemy.
(D) the ruler's claim to paramount sovereignty.

245. Which of the following is NOT a feature of Indo-Greek coins?
(A) Bilingual legends in Greek and a local script.
(B) Realistic and individualised portraits of kings.
(C) The exclusive use of aniconic symbols like the sun and hill.
(D) The use of the die-striking method.

246. The find spots of Kuninda coins are concentrated in the region of:

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(A) the Deccan plateau.
(B) the foothills of the Shiwalik range in Uttarakhand and Himachal.
(C) the Ganga-Yamuna doab.
(D) the Kaveri delta in Tamil Nadu.

247. The silver coin 'Rupaka' of the Guptas was issued primarily for which part of their empire?
(A) The eastern provinces of Bengal.
(B) The core territory of Magadha.
(C) The southern vassal states.
(D) The newly conquered western provinces.

248. In the context of the Gupta period, the term 'Dinara' refers to a:
(A) Gold coin
(B) Silver coin
(C) Copper coin
(D) Lead coin

249. Which one of the following factors contributed most to the artistic excellence of Gupta gold coins?
(A) The availability of a large amount of Roman gold.
(B) The lack of any other medium for artistic expression.
(C) The period's overall cultural renaissance and the use of coins to project royal ideology.
(D) The strict adherence to Kushana coin designs.

250. The technique of preparing a clay mould with multiple sockets to cast several coins at once is associated with the production of:
(A) Uninscribed cast copper coins
(B) Punch-marked coins
(C) Indo-Greek silver coins
(D) Gupta gold dinars

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Numismatics, the study of coins, serves as a quintessential source for reconstructing history, offering tangible evidence that often corroborates or supplements literary and archaeological records. Coins are not merely economic instruments but are state-sanctioned documents in miniature, providing invaluable insights into the political, economic, social, and religious fabric of their time. The metallurgical composition of a coin, for instance, can indicate the economic health of a state; a debasement of metal often signals economic distress. The geographical distribution of coin hoards helps delineate the extent of a kingdom's influence and its trade networks. Iconography and legends stamped on coins reveal the issuing authority's name and titles, the reigning dynasty, religious affiliations through depicted deities or symbols, and sometimes even commemorate significant events. For periods with scarce literary sources, such as the eras of the Indo-Greeks or the Saka-Kshatrapas, coinage becomes the primary, and sometimes sole, source for constructing dynastic chronologies and understanding political history. Thus, a comprehensive historical analysis is incomplete without a thorough examination of the numismatic evidence available, which provides a unique and often more objective perspective than eulogistic court chronicles.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the paragraph, what does the debasement of metal in coinage primarily suggest?
A A shift in religious affiliations.
B A period of economic distress.
C An advancement in metallurgical techniques.
D The expansion of trade networks.

252. The paragraph suggests that for certain historical periods, coins are considered a primary source mainly because of:
A The scarcity of corresponding literary sources.
B The high artistic quality of the engravings.
C The abundance of gold used in their manufacture.
D The universal acceptance of coins over barter.

253. Which of the following can be inferred from the geographical distribution of coin hoards as mentioned in the source?
A The exact population density of an ancient city.
B The literacy rate of the general population.

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C The territorial extent and commercial reach of a kingdom.
D The exclusive religious beliefs of the ruling monarch.

254. The passage describes coins as state-sanctioned documents in miniature. Which aspect of a coin best exemplifies this description?
A Its weight and metallic purity.
B Its irregular shape and size.
C The wear and tear from circulation.
D The name and titles of the issuing authority.

255. Which statement does NOT align with the role of numismatics as described in the text?
A Numismatics provides insights into the religious leanings of a dynasty.
B Coinage is a reliable indicator of a state's economic stability.
C The study of coins is exclusively useful for understanding economic history.
D Coins offer a more objective historical view compared to court chronicles.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The origin and antiquity of coinage in ancient India mark a significant transition from pre-monetary exchange systems, such as barter, to a more structured and standardized economic framework. While the precise date is a subject of scholarly debate, it is generally accepted that the concept of coinage emerged in India around the 6th century BCE, concurrent with the rise of the Mahajanapadas. This period of intense political and urban development created the necessary conditions for a monetized economy to facilitate trade and administrative activities, such as tax collection and payment to officials. The earliest coins were not the product of a single, centralized state but rather emerged from various Janapadas and local guilds. The literary evidence from Vedic texts, while mentioning terms like 'Nishka' and 'Satamana', likely refers to units of value or ornaments of precious metal rather than stamped, authoritative coins. The definitive arrival of coinage is associated with the appearance of punch-marked coins, which represented a technological and conceptual leap. This innovation signified a move towards an economy where value was guaranteed by a marking authority, paving the way for the complex monetary systems of subsequent empires. The antiquity of Indian coinage is thus deeply intertwined with the socio-political evolution of the subcontinent, reflecting the dawn of its second urbanization.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What major historical development is considered concurrent with the origin of coinage in India?
A The consolidation of the Mauryan Empire.
B The rise of the Mahajanapadas.
C The composition of the Vedic texts.
D The beginning of Indo-Roman trade.

257. According to the paragraph, what do terms like 'Nishka' found in Vedic literature most likely represent?
A Fully developed, state-issued coins.
B Promissory notes used by merchants.
C Foreign currency from Mesopotamian trade.
D Units of value or metallic ornaments.

258. The introduction of coinage facilitated which of the following administrative activities?
A The collection of taxes and payment to officials.
B The promotion of a single state religion.
C The documentation of dynastic lineage.
D The standardization of weights and measures for grain.

259. What does the paragraph identify as the key conceptual leap associated with the first definitive coins?
A The use of pure gold for minting.
B The inclusion of realistic portraits of rulers.
C The guarantee of value by a marking authority.
D The adoption of a perfectly circular shape.

260. Based on the passage, the emergence of coinage in ancient India was primarily driven by:
A The requirements of a growing urban and political landscape.
B The influence of foreign coinage systems.
C The need for a standardized medium for

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religious offerings.
D The discovery of new silver and copper mines.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The manufacturing of coins in ancient India involved distinct techniques that evolved over time, primarily revolving around casting and striking methods. The choice of metal—be it silver, copper, gold, or alloys—also dictated the production process and the coin's ultimate function. The earliest coins, such as punch-marked varieties, were typically manufactured by striking. This method involved first preparing a blank piece of metal, or a 'planchet', by cutting it from a flattened metal sheet or by flattening a metal globule. These planchets, often irregular in shape, were then placed on an anvil. Subsequently, one or more punches, each bearing a distinct symbol, were struck onto the planchet with a hammer. In contrast, the casting technique involved pouring molten metal, often a copper or lead alloy, into a mould made of terracotta or bronze. These moulds could be designed to produce several coins at once and could feature intricate designs, including inscriptions, on both sides. Un-inscribed cast coins are among the earliest examples of this method, while later inscribed cast coins show an advancement in the technique. The metallurgical composition, involving gold for high-value transactions, silver for major trade, copper for local exchange, and various alloys to control costs or improve durability, reflects the sophisticated understanding of materials and economic stratification of the period.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. According to the passage, what was the initial step in manufacturing a coin using the striking method?
A Pouring molten metal into a mould.
B Engraving a die with a complex portrait.
C Polishing the finished coin to a high sheen.
D Preparing a blank piece of metal called a planchet.

262. The casting technique, as described in the text, was distinct from striking because it involved:
A Using multiple punches with different symbols.
B Pouring molten metal into a mould.
C Using a hammer to impress a design.
D Using exclusively silver and gold.

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263. What can be inferred about the function of coins based on the metals used?
A All metals were used interchangeably for all types of transactions.
B The choice of metal was purely based on its aesthetic appeal.
C The metal's value corresponded to the scale of the economic transaction.
D Gold coins were less durable than those made of copper alloys.

264. The paragraph identifies punch-marked coins as a primary example of which manufacturing technique?
A The casting method using terracotta moulds.
B The repoussé technique on thin metal sheets.
C The alloying method to create new metals.
D The striking method using hammers and punches.

265. What distinguished inscribed cast coins from un-inscribed cast coins?
A The presence of written characters as part of the design.
B The type of metal used in their production.
C The geographical region of their origin.
D The method of production, whether cast or struck.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The earliest forms of Indian coinage are predominantly represented by punch-marked coins and cast coins, which can be either inscribed or un-inscribed. Punch-marked coins, largely made of silver, are the most ancient and widespread. They are characterized by their irregular shapes, as they were cut from metal sheets, and the presence of several symbols punched onto their surface, typically on one side. These symbols, which include geometric patterns, floral motifs, animals, and solar or wheel-like designs, are believed to have been stamped by

different authorities, possibly local administrators or money changers, to certify their weight and purity. The lack of any written legend is a defining feature of most punch-marked coins. In parallel, and sometimes overlapping with the punch-marked series, were the un-inscribed cast coins. These were produced by pouring molten metal, usually copper or its alloys, into a mould. They are generally thicker and cruder than punch-marked coins and often bear simple symbols like the swastika or an elephant. A subsequent development was the inscribed cast coin, which, as the name suggests, included rudimentary inscriptions in Brahmi script alongside symbols. This inclusion of a script marks a significant step towards coins that explicitly declare their issuing authority.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. What is a primary characteristic that distinguishes punch-marked coins from later coin types?
- A The use of pure gold.
- B The general absence of written legends.
- C The presence of detailed royal portraits.
- D Their perfectly uniform circular shape.

267. The multiple symbols found on punch-marked coins are believed to represent:
- A The date and year of minting.
- B Certifications of weight and purity from various authorities.
- C A continuous narrative story.
- D The coin's specific monetary value in text.

268. According to the text, how were un-inscribed cast coins primarily produced?
- A By pouring molten copper or its alloy into a mould.
- B By striking a blank metal sheet with multiple punches.
- C By engraving details onto a pre-made silver coin.
- D By hammering a metal globule into a flat, thin shape.

269. The transition from un-inscribed to inscribed cast coins is significant because it indicates:
- A A decline in the economic value of copper.
- B The first use of silver in Indian coinage.
- C A move towards explicitly naming the issuing authority.
- D The abandonment of the casting technique.

270. Which of the following is a key physical difference mentioned between typical punch-marked coins and un-inscribed cast coins?
- A Punch-marked coins are made of copper, while cast coins are made of silver.
- B Punch-marked coins are thicker and cruder, while cast coins are irregularly shaped.
- C Punch-marked coins have inscriptions, while cast coins have only symbols.
- D Punch-marked coins are irregularly shaped, while cast coins are generally thicker.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

In the numismatic history of ancient India, Janpada and tribal coins occupy a crucial position, representing the monetary systems of various oligarchic and monarchical states that flourished before and during the rise of the Mauryan empire. These coins serve as primary evidence for the existence and autonomy of numerous local polities that are often only fleetingly mentioned in literary texts. The coinage of the Janapadas, such as Kashi, Kosala, and Magadha, initially followed the punch-marked silver standard but eventually evolved to include distinct local characteristics and symbols, asserting their individual identity. Following the decline of Mauryan centralization, various tribal republics like the Yaudheyas, Malavas, and Audumbaras issued their own coinage, primarily in copper or base alloys. These tribal coins are particularly significant for their rich and diverse iconography, which often includes depictions of deities like Kartikeya, martial motifs reflecting their warrior traditions, and legends in Brahmi or Kharosthi scripts that name the tribe (e.g., 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya'). The issuance of such coins was a potent declaration of their sovereignty and collective identity, making them invaluable sources for reconstructing the fragmented political landscape and the socio-religious beliefs of post-Mauryan northern India.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

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five questions.

296. What is a general trend identified in early medieval Indian coinage compared to the Gupta era?
A An increase in the use of pure gold and artistic realism.
B A complete stop to the minting of all coins.
C The adoption of a single, pan-Indian currency design.
D A decline in artistic quality and metallic purity.

297. The 'Indo-Sassanian' type of coinage, as described in the text, is noted for:
A becoming progressively more abstract and stylized over time.
B being a direct import from the Roman Empire.
C its high level of realistic portraiture.
D being the standard gold coin of the Chola kingdom.

298. The 'bull and horseman' type of coin was a standard design introduced by which power?
A The Satavahanas of the Deccan.
B The Shahi kings of Kabul and Punjab.
C The Gupta emperors.
D The Indo-Greeks.

299. What does the rise of diverse and localized coin types in the early medieval period primarily reflect?
A A period of unprecedented economic prosperity.
B The political fragmentation and rise of regional kingdoms.
C A revival of the barter system across India.
D The strong, centralized control of a single empire.

300. According to the paragraph, the decreased frequency of gold coins and the increased use of billon or copper in the early medieval period suggests:
A a shift in the economic resources available to rulers.
B a preference for heavier coins for trade.
C a change in aesthetic tastes among the population.
D the influence of Roman minting techniques.

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278. The bi-scriptual system on Indo-Greek coins was historically invaluable for which reason?
A It proved that the Indo-Greeks were a monolingual society.
B It helped in deciphering the Kharosthi script.
C It established the economic value of the coins.
D It listed the major trade routes of the kingdom.

279. For what reason are the coins of the Indo-Greeks considered a primary historical source for their own period?
A They are the only surviving artifacts from the Indo-Greek kingdoms.
B They describe the entire history of the preceding Mauryan empire.
C They provide the main evidence for the chronology of many Indo-Greek rulers.
D They were used as the first international currency.

280. Which statement best describes the layout of a typical Indo-Greek coin as per the passage?
A Greek legend on both sides of the coin.
B Abstract symbols on the obverse and the king's name in Kharosthi on the reverse.
C A deity on the obverse and the king's portrait with a Brahmi legend on the reverse.
D King's portrait on the obverse and a deity with a Prakrit legend on the reverse.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The coinage of the Saka-Kshatrapa, Kushana, and Satavahana dynasties represents a complex and regionally diverse numismatic landscape in ancient India. The Saka-Kshatrapas of Western India issued a long-lasting and highly informative series of silver coins. These coins are notable for continuing the Indo-Greek tradition of realistic portraiture of the ruler on the obverse, while the reverse typically featured a symbol like a stupa or chaitya, often accompanied by inscriptions in Brahmi and Kharosthi, which included the king's name and title, and crucially, the date in the Saka era, allowing for precise chronological reconstruction. The Kushana coinage, in contrast, demonstrates immense syncretism. Their prolific gold and copper coins feature a range of deities drawn from Greek, Iranian, and Indian pantheons, reflecting the diverse cultural milieu of their vast empire. Kushana coins, particularly those of Kanishka and Huvishka, replaced Greek legends with Bactrian, and featured standing or seated figures of kings. The Satavahana coinage, dominant in the Deccan, presents another distinct tradition. Primarily using base metals like lead and potin, their coins lack the realistic portraiture of the Sakas. Instead, they are characterized by motifs such as the elephant, lion, and notably, the ship—suggesting the importance of maritime trade. The ubiquitous 'Ujjain' symbol (a cross with four circles) is also a common feature on coins of both the Satavahanas and their Saka rivals.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. A key feature that makes Saka-Kshatrapa coinage particularly valuable for historians is the:
A inclusion of dates in the Saka era.
B exclusive use of gold.
C depiction of various Indian deities.
D complete absence of any inscriptions.

282. The syncretic nature of the Kushana empire is best reflected in which aspect of their coinage?
A The consistent use of only the Greek language.
B The depiction of deities from multiple cultural pantheons.
C The use of lead and potin as primary metals.
D The depiction of ships and maritime motifs.

283. Which dynasty's coinage is particularly associated with motifs like the ship, suggesting maritime trade?
A The Kushanas.
B The Satavahanas.
C The Saka-Kshatrapas.
D The Guptas.

284. Based on the passage, what is a major difference between Saka-Kshatrapa and Satavahana coinage?
A Saka coins featured realistic portraits, while Satavahana coins typically did not.

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Casting is a traditional coin manufacturing process involving the use of terracotta or stone moulds. Molten metal, typically copper or its alloys, is poured into these pre-formed cavities to create coins with specific shapes and symbols. This technique allowed for the efficient production of large quantities of small-value currency. While less refined than die-striking, casting was widely utilized by tribal republics and local city-states.

9. (C) Satavahanas

The Satavahana dynasty, which ruled extensively over the Deccan region, is notable for its widespread use of base metals in coinage. They issued a vast number of coins made of lead, along with copper and potin. These materials were locally abundant and suitable for regional economic transactions. Lead coins often featured symbols like the elephant, lion, or the Ujjain symbol, reflecting the unique administrative and metallurgical traditions of the dynasty.

10. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Different ancient Indian dynasties introduced distinct numismatic features that assist in historical identification. The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue coins featuring realistic portraits of kings. The Satavahanas occasionally depicted maritime motifs like ships. The Gupta dynasty is famous for its elaborate gold coins, including the archer type. Finally, the earliest punch-marked coins are characterized by the presence of multiple symbols, often exactly five on the reverse side.

11. (D) Potin

Potin is a specific alloy composed primarily of copper and tin, frequently enriched with traces of lead or zinc. This durable material was extensively used by the Satavahana dynasty for minting common currency in the Deccan. Because potin provided a balance between durability and cost, it was ideal for regional trade. These coins typically featured symbolic motifs and Prakrit legends, representing the economic pragmatism of early South Indian maritime powers.

12. (B) They were manufactured using the die-striking technique.

Punch-marked coins are recognized as the earliest form of Indian currency, primarily made of silver and characterized by several symbols punched separately. Unlike later Hellenistic-inspired coins, they were not produced through die-striking, which involves a single blow onto a blank between two complete dies. Instead, each symbol was applied using an individual punch, resulting in irregular designs and a lack of standardized royal portraits or legends.

13. (C) Un-inscribed cast coins

Un-inscribed cast copper coins represent a significant category of local currency that circulated alongside silver punch-marked coins. These coins frequently feature various motifs such as the tree-in-railing, the elephant, and the cross-like Ujjain symbol. Produced by pouring molten metal into moulds, these issues generally lack written legends, reflecting their use by local guilds, city-states, or tribal republics for daily commerce and small-value transactions across northern and central India.

14. (A) 1, 2 and 4

Indo-Greek coinage introduced revolutionary changes to the Indian monetary system by featuring individualized, realistic portraits of rulers. These coins were typically bilingual and bi-scriptual, employing Greek on the front and Kharoshthi or Brahmi on the back. While they minted silver and copper in large quantities, they did not exclusively use gold. The inclusion of the king's name and titles allowed historians to reconstruct the genealogy of these Hellenistic kings.

15. (A) It facilitated their use by both Greek and local Indian populations.

The bilingual and bi-scriptual nature of Indo-Greek coinage was a strategic administrative choice. By using Greek for the ruling elite and local scripts like Kharoshthi for the indigenous population, the authorities ensured that the currency was universally recognized and accepted throughout their diverse territories. This dual approach facilitated regional trade and demonstrated the integration of Hellenistic political structures with the existing socio-cultural fabric of North-Western India during that period.

of these hoards is noteworthy; they consist largely of gold coins (aurei) and silver coins (denarii) from emperors like Augustus, Tiberius, and Nero. The presence of these high-value coins suggests they were not used for day-to-day circulation within the local Indian economy. Instead, it is widely believed that Roman merchants used this bullion to pay for luxury goods from India, such as spices, textiles, and precious stones. The intrinsic value of the precious metal in the coins was more important than their face value as currency. This is further supported by the frequent discovery of Roman coins that have been deliberately slashed or defaced, indicating they were tested for purity and treated as bullion before being melted down or stored as wealth. Thus, Roman coins in India are less a sign of monetary integration and more a powerful indicator of a significant trade imbalance in India's favor.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. The large number of Roman coins found in India primarily serves as evidence for:
- A A Roman military conquest of Southern India.
- B The adoption of Latin as an official language.
- C Extensive maritime trade between India and the Roman Empire.
- D The migration of Roman artisans to India.

292. According to the paragraph, why were Roman gold and silver coins likely not used for daily transactions in India?
- A Their value was primarily in their metal content, not as circulating currency.
- B They were considered sacred and could not be exchanged.
- C Local Indian kingdoms banned the use of foreign currency.
- D They were too large and heavy for practical use.

293. The discovery of Roman coins that have been slashed or defaced suggests that they were:
- A officially cancelled by the Roman emperor.
- B rejected by Indian merchants as counterfeit.
- C used in religious rituals as offerings.
- D tested for metallic purity and treated as bullion.

294. In which region of India have the most significant hoards of Roman coins been discovered?
- A In the Himalayan foothills.
- B In Southern India.
- C In the Gangetic plain.
- D In the western deserts of Rajasthan.

295. What does the influx of Roman bullion into India to pay for Indian goods suggest about the nature of the trade?
- A A trade relationship that was perfectly balanced.
- B India was exporting more raw materials than finished goods.
- C A trade imbalance that was in India's favor.
- D Roman goods were more highly valued in India.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The early medieval period in Indian history witnessed a significant transformation in the subcontinent's coinage, often characterized by a departure from the high standards of the classical era. A brief account of early medieval Indian coinage reveals a general trend towards a decline in artistic quality, metallic purity, and standardization when compared to the prolific issues of the Guptas or Kushanas. This period saw the rise of numerous regional kingdoms, each minting coins that reflected their local identities and often limited resources. The use of gold became less frequent, with silver and billon (a silver-copper alloy) or copper becoming more common. The designs often became stylized and crude, with the elegant naturalism of Gupta coins being replaced by geometric and linear representations. For example, the 'Indo-Sassanian' type coinage that circulated in Western India was a derivative of Sassanian prototypes, becoming progressively more abstract over centuries. In the north, the coinage of rulers like the Shahi kings of Kabul and Punjab featured a 'bull and horseman' type that would become a standard and widely imitated design for several centuries. These developments, while sometimes seen as a 'debasement', are crucial for tracing the political fragmentation and the emergence of new regional powers that defined the early medieval landscape.

Based on the above source, attempt the following

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B Saka coins used dates, while Satavahana coins did not.
C Saka coins were mainly copper, while Satavahana coins were mainly silver.
D Saka coins used Brahmi script, while Satavahana coins used only Greek script.

285. The 'Ujjain' symbol, described as a cross with four circles, is mentioned as a common feature on the coins of which two powers?
A Kushanas and Guptas.
B Indo-Greeks and Kushanas.
C Satavahanas and Saka-Kshatrapas.
D Mauryas and Satavahanas.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The coinage of the Gupta dynasty is widely regarded as the pinnacle of ancient Indian numismatic art, reflecting the prosperity and cultural efflorescence of what is often termed the 'Golden Age'. The Guptas issued a prolific and varied series of gold coins, known as Dinaras, which are celebrated for their high metallic purity and exceptional artistic execution. These coins moved away from the foreign-influenced portraiture of the Kushans and developed a distinct, idealized Indian style. The obverse of Gupta coins typically depicts the king in various martial or stately poses, such as an archer, a horseman (Ashvamedha type), battling a lion, or playing a musical instrument (lyrist type, associated with Samudragupta). These depictions are allegorical representations of the king's virtues and power. The reverse side usually features the goddess Lakshmi seated on a lotus, symbolizing prosperity, accompanied by a legend in Brahmi script. The inscriptions on Gupta coins are notable for their poetic quality and are composed in classical Sanskrit, marking a significant shift from the Prakrit and mixed languages of earlier coinages. While gold coins were abundant, the Guptas also issued silver coins, mainly for their western territories, and a less common series of copper coins for local circulation.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. The gold coins issued by the Gupta dynasty were known by which name?
A Satamanas
B Karshapanas
C Drammas
D Dinaras

287. A significant linguistic shift observed on Gupta coins was the prominent use of:
A Prakrit in Kharosthi script.
B Greek as a prestige language.
C Classical Sanskrit in Brahmi script.
D Pali in a modified Brahmi script.

288. The 'lyrist type' of Gupta coin, showing a king playing a musical instrument, is most famously associated with which ruler?
A Chandragupta Maurya
B Samudragupta
C Kanishka
D Kumaragupta

289. What is the most common motif found on the reverse side of Gupta gold coins?
A A depiction of a fire altar.
B A standing king with a spear.
C A bull seated before a Shiva linga.
D The goddess Lakshmi seated on a lotus.

290. According to the passage, the various depictions of the king on the obverse of Gupta coins, such as the 'archer' or 'horseman' type, primarily served to:
A allegorically represent the king's virtues and power.
B provide an accurate, realistic portrait of the king.
C indicate the coin's specific monetary value.
D copy the designs of preceding Kushana coinage.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The discovery of Roman coins in significant quantities across the Indian subcontinent, particularly in Southern India, provides compelling archaeological evidence for the flourishing maritime trade that existed between the Roman Empire and ancient India. Hoards of these coins, predominantly from the early imperial period (1st century BCE to 2nd century CE), have been unearthed at numerous sites along the coastal and inland trade routes. The composition

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ANSWER

1. (B) Numismatics

   The scientific and historical study of currency, including coins, tokens, paper money, and related objects, is known as numismatics. This discipline involves analyzing physical characteristics such as metallic composition, weight standards, and manufacturing techniques. It also examines the cultural context of money, providing vital information about economic conditions, political authority, and artistic developments. Scholars use this field to reconstruct ancient chronologies and trace extensive trade routes.

2. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

   Archaeological evidence of Roman coins across Southern India primarily substantiates the existence of vibrant maritime trade rather than military conquest. The Roman Empire sought exotic commodities like pepper, textiles, and gemstones from Indian ports. Finding large quantities of silver and gold currency from the reigns of early emperors confirms that these coins served as high-value bullion for commercial transactions, highlighting the significant economic integration between these regions.

3. (C) The complete literary works produced during a specific reign.

   Ancient Indian coins provide significant historical data regarding the geographical extent of kingdoms, religious affiliations of rulers, and prevailing economic conditions. However, they are insufficient for reconstructing entire literary works, as legends and inscriptions are typically brief and focused on titles or names. While coins often reflect the aesthetic values and scripts of an era, they cannot provide the comprehensive textual content found in manuscripts.

4. (D) Die-striking

   Die-striking is a precise manufacturing technique where a heated metal blank is placed between two engraved dies. Force is applied by striking the upper die with a heavy hammer, resulting in the impression of designs on both the front and back of the coin. This method allowed for greater detail, consistency, and artistic expression compared to earlier casting or simple punch-marking techniques used in ancient India.

5. (C) The concept of coinage developed indigenously in India, likely in the 6th century BCE.

   Scholarly research indicates that the first coins in the Indian subcontinent, known as punch-marked coins, emerged independently around the 6th century BCE during the Mahajanapada period. Although foreign influences later arrived with Alexander and the Achaemenids, the indigenous development of silver and copper currency was driven by internal economic growth and urbanization. These early issues were characterized by multiple symbols rather than portraits or inscriptions.

6. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

   Early punch-marked coins lack royal portraits or names, focusing instead on symbolic representations. This aniconic nature reflects the administrative practices of early states and guilds where specific combinations of symbols, such as the sun or hills, guaranteed the coin's intrinsic value and weight. These symbols served as a mark of authority and purity, allowing the coins to circulate widely as a trusted medium of exchange.

7. (D) Silver

   Silver was the predominant metal utilized for the production of punch-marked coins during the early historical period in India. These coins were typically manufactured by cutting silver sheets into rectangular or circular shapes and then punching various symbols onto their surface. While copper was also used for lower denominations, silver remained the standard for high-value transactions and state-issued currency across the diverse Mahajanapadas and Mauryan Empire.

8. (A) Casting

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271. What is the primary historical significance of Janpada and tribal coins?
- A They demonstrate the complete economic unification of India under one currency.
- B They are the first coins in India to be made exclusively of gold.
- C They provide evidence for the existence and sovereignty of local political entities.
- D They prove that barter was the only form of exchange during that period.

272. The coins of tribal republics like the Yaudheyas are particularly noted for what feature?
- A Their exclusive use of the Greek script.
- B Their rich iconography, including deities and martial motifs.
- C Their lack of any symbols or iconography.
- D Their standardized weight based on the Roman system.

273. According to the paragraph, the legend 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya' on a coin would be a declaration of:
- A The name of a single monarch.
- B A tribute payment to a larger empire.
- C The coin's monetary value and date of issue.
- D The sovereignty of the Yaudheya tribe or republic.

274. The paragraph suggests that the coinage of Janapadas like Kashi and Kosala initially resembled:
- A The standard punch-marked silver currency.
- B Roman gold coins.
- C Inscribed Kushana copper coins.
- D Un-inscribed cast copper coins.

275. The issuance of distinct coins by tribes like the Malavas and Audumbaras occurred primarily during which period?
- A During the peak of the Harappan Civilization.
- B Concurrent with the rise of the Mahajanapadas.
- C Following the decline of Mauryan central authority.
- D During the height of the Gupta Empire.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The advent of the Indo-Greeks in the Indian subcontinent heralded a revolutionary chapter in the history of numismatics. Moving beyond the abstract symbolism of earlier indigenous coinage, the Indo-Greeks introduced coins that were remarkable for their realism and artistic merit. Their most significant contribution was the introduction of realistic portraiture, where the bust of the reigning monarch was depicted with striking individuality. This set a new standard for royal coinage, influencing subsequent dynasties for centuries. Another groundbreaking feature was the bilingual and bi-scriptual nature of their legends. Typically, the obverse of the coin would feature the king's portrait with a legend in Greek, while the reverse would display a deity or symbol accompanied by a translation of the legend in Prakrit, written in either Kharosthi or Brahmi script. This bi-scriptual system was a practical measure in a multilingual kingdom and is invaluable to historians for deciphering scripts like Kharosthi. The coins, struck in silver and copper, also provide the primary framework for the chronology and lineage of over forty Indo-Greek kings and queens, many of whom are completely unknown from any other historical source. Their numismatic legacy thus lies in establishing a model of coinage that combined aesthetic excellence with profound historical information.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What is considered the most significant numismatic contribution of the Indo-Greeks?
- A The introduction of realistic royal portraiture.
- B The introduction of copper as a metal for coinage.
- C The first use of abstract geometric symbols.
- D The creation of irregularly shaped punch-marked coins.

277. The bilingual nature of Indo-Greek coins typically involved which two languages?
- A Latin and Sanskrit.
- B Aramaic and Pali.
- C Persian and Brahmi.
- D Greek and Prakrit.

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16. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Kushana coinage reflects significant foreign influence, particularly from the Roman Empire. Under rulers like Vima Kadphises, the Kushanas introduced a high-quality gold currency that adopted a weight standard nearly identical to the Roman aureus. This standardization was intended to facilitate international trade along the Silk Road. By aligning their currency with Roman types, the Kushanas ensured their gold coins were respected and traded across vast distances in the ancient world.

17. (B) bear dates in the Saka era.

The silver coinage of the Western Kshatrapas is exceptionally important for historical reconstruction because it features dates recorded in the Saka era. These inscriptions provide a precise chronological framework for the reigns of individual rulers. Additionally, the coins typically include the name of the reigning king and his father, allowing for a detailed understanding of the dynasty's genealogy. This level of temporal accuracy is unique among ancient Indian numismatic records.

18. (A) Satavahanas

The Satavahana dynasty issued unique coins featuring maritime motifs, most notably the ship type with two masts. These issues highlight the significant role of the dynasty in facilitating and controlling overseas trade across the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Such imagery underscores the naval strength and commercial interests of the Satavahanas, connecting the Deccan region with Roman maritime networks and Southeast Asian trade during the early centuries CE.

19. (C) Samudragupta

Samudragupta is celebrated for his diverse and artistic gold coinage, which reflects his personal interests and political triumphs. His issues include the lyrist type, showing him playing a musical instrument, and the archer and tiger-slayer types, which emphasize his martial prowess. These coins served as propaganda, projecting the image of a versatile and powerful sovereign who excelled in both the arts of war and the refinements of cultural life.

20. (D) Copper coins manufactured using a mould, lacking any legend.

Un-inscribed cast coins are typically copper issues produced by pouring molten metal into clay or stone moulds. They are distinguished by the presence of various symbolic motifs but an absolute absence of written legends or names. These coins were common during the late Mahajanapada and Mauryan periods, serving as a lower-denomination currency for everyday local exchanges. Their widespread find spots indicate their utility in the regional economies of ancient North India.

21. (C) A is true but R is false.

Gupta gold coins represent a peak in Indian numismatics due to their exquisite craftsmanship, elegant imagery, and high purity. However, the legends on these coins were written in classical Sanskrit using the Brahmi script, not in Prakrit. Sanskrit was the language of the elite and the royal court, reflecting the cultural revival of the period. While the artistic merit is undeniable, the use of Sanskrit indicates a highly refined administrative and cultural environment.

22. (B) a favorable balance of trade for India with the Roman Empire.

The discovery of massive hoards of Roman gold and silver coins in South India indicates a significant trade imbalance in favor of Indian merchants. Roman historians, such as Pliny, noted the enormous drain of Roman currency to India in exchange for luxury goods like spices, silk, and muslin. These coins were often treated as high-quality bullion or treasure, confirming that India exported more valuable commodities than it imported from the Roman Mediterranean.

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23. (D) Presence of a bust of the king and dates in an era.

Saka-Kshatrapa coinage is characterized by silver issues that feature a realistic bust of the reigning monarch on the front. On the back, these coins typically display a three-arched hill symbol and a river, along with a circular legend in Brahmi script. Most significantly, they include dates in the Saka era, which allows for the precise dating of each ruler. This combination of royal

portraiture and temporal markers defines their numismatic identity.

24. (A) 1, 2 and 3

Ancient Indian numismatic history involves various manufacturing techniques that evolved over time. Punch-marking was the earliest method, where symbols were separately impressed onto metal. Casting allowed for mass production by using moulds for molten metal. Die-striking, popularized by the Indo-Greeks, created uniform coins with detailed designs on both sides. Contrary to some views, pure metals and diverse alloys were both used, and different methods coexisted depending on the region and the era.

25. (C) Yaudheyas

The Yaudheyas were a martial tribal republic whose coins frequently feature the deity Kartikeya, also known as Skanda. As the god of war, Kartikeya symbolizes the military prowess and republican identity of the tribe. Their coinage often carries the legend 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya', signifying the victory of the republic. These issues were predominantly made of copper and provide essential evidence for the political and religious life of independent tribal states in Northern India.

26. (A) Roman Denarius

The term 'Dinar', used for the gold currency of the Gupta Empire, is widely believed to be derived from the Latin word 'Denarius'. The Roman Denarius was a standard silver coin that influenced monetary terminology across Eurasia. Although the Gupta Dinars were made of gold, the adoption of the name highlights the impact of international trade and the prestige of Roman monetary systems on Indian coinage during the early centuries of the Common Era.

27. (D) Satavahanas

The Ujjain symbol is a hallmark of Satavahana coinage, consisting of four circles at the ends of a cross. This motif appeared consistently on the reverse of their copper, lead, and silver issues. It is thought to represent the dynasty's authority or perhaps a specific administrative center. The presence of this symbol alongside motifs like the elephant or lion helps numismatists identify Satavahana currency and trace the geographical extent of their economic influence.

28. (A) 2, 3, 4, 1

Indian coinage evolved through several distinct phases. The earliest were the indigenous punch-marked coins appearing around the 6th century BCE. These were followed by the die-struck coins introduced by the Indo-Greeks in the 2nd century BCE. Subsequently, the Kushanas established a robust gold currency in the 1st century CE. Finally, the Gupta Empire refined these traditions to produce their famous gold dinaras starting in the 4th century CE, marking a chronological progression of technology.

29. (C) There was a marked decline in the frequency and quality of coinage, with some regions experiencing a coin famine.

The early medieval period in India generally saw a significant reduction in the circulation and quality of metallic currency compared to the Gupta age. Historians often describe this phenomenon as a coin famine, particularly in Northern India. Political fragmentation and the decline of long-distance trade led to the issuance of debased coins or a greater reliance on local exchange systems. While some dynasties continued minting, the overall numismatic output lacked the previous imperial standards.

30. (D) Kushanas

Kushana coinage is uniquely distinguished by its syncretic representation of various religious pantheons. Their coins feature a diverse array of Greek, Iranian, and Indian deities, reflecting the multicultural and tolerant nature of their vast empire. Figures such as Helios, Mithra, and Siva appear on the reverse of their gold and copper issues. This variety served as a powerful administrative tool to gain acceptance from the different ethnic groups living under Kushana rule.

31. (A) Audumbaras - Coins with the figure of sage Vishvamitra

The tribal republics of ancient India issued distinctive coins that reflected their local legends and religious traditions. The Audumbaras, located in the Punjab region, minted silver and copper coins that prominently featured the

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figure of the sage Vishvamitra. These coins often included the name of the tribe and served as evidence of their autonomous political status. Such issues are crucial for understanding the history of independent polities that existed outside major imperial frameworks.

32. (B) Electroplating copper coins with a layer of gold

Ancient Indian minting techniques primarily included punch-marking, casting, and die-striking. Punch-marking involved striking individual symbols onto metal, while casting used moulds for molten metal, and die-striking used engraved dies for detailed designs. Electroplating, a modern chemical process for coating metals with a thin layer of gold, was entirely unknown in the ancient world. Instead, when base metals were gilded, it was done through mechanical methods or by using specific alloys to mimic precious metals.

33. (B) The extent of currency circulation and political influence.

The find spots of coin hoards are vital for historians because they reveal the geographical area where a particular currency was used and accepted. By mapping these locations, scholars can estimate the boundaries of an empire's economic influence and the reach of its political authority. Hoards also indicate patterns of trade, economic stability, and the movement of people, providing a spatial dimension to the historical narrative that literary sources might lack.

34. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Kushana rulers, particularly Kanishka I, issued an extensive range of gold coins because they controlled critical segments of the Silk Road. Their strategic position allowed them to facilitate and tax the lucrative trade between the Roman Empire and the East. This commercial activity brought a steady influx of gold bullion into their treasury, enabling the production of high-quality currency that supported their imperial economy and projected their immense wealth and power.

35. (C) the performance of the horse-sacrifice ritual.

The Ashvamedha type gold coins were special commemorative issues produced by powerful Gupta emperors like Samudragupta and Kumaragupta I. These coins depict a horse standing before a sacrificial post, symbolizing the successful completion of the Vedic horse-sacrifice. This ritual was performed to assert the ruler's status as a universal monarch or 'Chakravartin'. Such coins served as both religious tokens and political propaganda, celebrating the expansion and consolidation of the Gupta Empire.

36. (D) All Satavahana coins were inscribed in Greek and Kharoshthi scripts.

Satavahana coinage was diverse, primarily using lead, potin, and copper for regional transactions. While some later rulers issued silver portrait coins inspired by the Western Kshatrapas, the majority of their issues were inscribed in Prakrit using the Brahmi script. They did not use Greek or Kharoshthi, which were characteristic of North-Western Indian coinage. Their coins often featured regional symbols, reflecting the dynasty's roots in the Deccan and its focus on local administration.

37. (C) debased silver or billon coins derived from Sassanian prototypes.

Gadhaiya coins were a common form of currency in early medieval Western India, particularly in Gujarat and Rajasthan. These coins are characterized by a highly stylized and degenerate design derived from Sassanian prototypes, featuring a simplified bust and a fire altar. Made of debased silver or billon, they circulated for several centuries. Their crude appearance reflects the economic transitions and the persistence of certain monetary types during a period of significant political decentralization.

38. (D) All of the above

The study of numismatics relies on a variety of sources to provide a comprehensive historical picture. While the coins themselves are the primary physical evidence, literary texts offer names and denominations. Accounts from foreign travelers provide context on how these currencies functioned in markets. Additionally, epigraphic records frequently mention donations made in specific coins, helping historians verify the value and circulation of different currencies mentioned in official documents or religious inscriptions.

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issues. The Satavahanas predominantly used lead and potin, a copper-based alloy. The Gupta Empire is celebrated for its prestigious gold dinaras and silver rupakas. Meanwhile, the Western Kshatrapas focused almost entirely on silver coinage for their western territories. These choices reflect the availability of resources and the specific economic requirements of each region and dynasty.

85. (C) Urban Decay.

The period between the 7th and 10th centuries CE in Northern India is often described by historians as an era of Urban Decay. This phase was characterized by a noticeable decline in the number of active cities, a reduction in long-distance trade, and a significant scarcity of high-quality coinage. The shift toward a more decentralized, agrarian economy led to a decreased reliance on metallic currency, with many regions experiencing what is known as a coin famine or numismatic stagnation.

86. (B) Kumaragupta I

Kumaragupta I issued one of the rarest and most unique coins in the Gupta series, known as the 'Rhinoceros-slayer' type. This gold coin depicts the emperor on horseback, attacking a rhinoceros with a sword. It is believed to commemorate a royal hunt or a military victory in the marshy regions of the east, possibly Assam. Such coins demonstrate the high level of artistic creativity and the personalized nature of Gupta numismatics, celebrating specific achievements of the reigning monarch.

87. (D) the Indian deity Siva and his bull, Nandi.

The coinage of the later Kushana ruler Vasudeva I shows a significant shift toward Indian religious themes. Unlike his predecessors who featured a wide pantheon of Greek and Iranian gods, Vasudeva's gold and copper coins almost exclusively depict the Indian god Siva standing before his bull, Nandi. This transition reflects the gradual Indianization of the Kushana dynasty as they became more integrated into the cultural and religious fabric of the Indian subcontinent over several generations of rule.

88. (B) 2, 3 and 4

Coin manufacturing in ancient India utilized diverse methods. Casting involved pouring molten metal into moulds, while die-striking, introduced by the Indo-Greeks, allowed for detailed, two-sided designs. Alloys were frequently used to strengthen coins or save on precious metals during economic crises. However, punch-marked coins were not made by striking heated blanks with dies; instead, they were produced by punching individual symbols onto cold or slightly heated metal sheets or bars, resulting in their characteristic irregular symbolic patterns.

89. (C) They bear several symbols, each punched from a separate punch.

Punch-marked coins derive their name from their unique manufacturing process. Rather than using a single die to strike an entire design, ancient minters used several individual metal punches, each carrying a different symbol like the sun, a fish, or a tree. These were impressed one by one onto a metal blank, usually silver. This technique resulted in a cluster of distinct symbols on the surface, which served as marks of authority or quality from different officials or guilds.

90. (A) major Indo-Roman trading port.

The archaeological site of Arikamedu, located near Puducherry, has yielded significant finds of Roman coins, pottery, and glassware. These discoveries provide undeniable evidence that Arikamedu was a major coastal hub for maritime trade between the Roman Empire and South India during the early centuries CE. The presence of Roman currency confirms that Indian merchants traded valuable local goods like textiles and beads for Roman gold and silver, establishing the site as a critical node in ancient global commerce.

91. (D) Presence of the ruler's name and portrait

The most significant innovation of Indo-Greek coinage was the introduction of the ruler's individualized name and realistic portrait. Indigenous punch-marked coins were entirely symbolic and aniconic, lacking any textual or human identification of the issuing authority. The Indo-Greeks brought the Hellenistic tradition of featuring the sovereign's likeness on currency, which not only served an administrative function but also acted as a powerful tool for personal

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such as elephants, hills, or trees, but they do not contain any written inscriptions or royal names. They represent a local or regional form of currency that circulated during the late Mahajanapada and Mauryan periods, serving as a lower-denomination medium for small-scale commercial transactions and local markets.

47. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Tribal coins from republics like the Yaudheyas and Kunindas provide essential insights into the non-monarchical political structures of ancient India. The legends on these coins, such as 'Yaudheya-ganasya jaya', explicitly mention the 'gana' or republic, affirming that authority was vested in the community or an assembly rather than a single king. These numismatic records are primary evidence for the survival and identity of these autonomous polities amidst the rise of large imperial systems.

48. (B) Skandagupta - Ship type

Gupta emperors issued diverse coin types, but the ship type is specifically associated with the Satavahana dynasty, not the Guptas. Samudragupta is well known for the Ashvamedha type, which commemorated his imperial sacrifices. Chandragupta II issued the lion-slayer type to celebrate his victories in Western India, while Kumaragupta I is famous for the Kartikeya type, showing the god on a peacock. Skandagupta primarily issued archer and king-and-queen types during his challenging reign.

49. (B) Sassanian

The Sassanian coinage of Persia, featuring the king's bust on the front and a fire altar on the back, exerted a profound influence on the currencies of North-Western and Western India. This stylistic tradition was adopted and modified by local dynasties, leading to the creation of the Indo-Sassanian or 'Gadhaiya' series. These coins maintained the basic motifs for centuries, though they became increasingly stylized and debased, reflecting the enduring legacy of Persian monetary design in the subcontinent.

50. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Kushana coinage evolved through several stages, beginning with Kujula Kadphises imitating Indo-Greek and Roman types. Vima Kadphises then introduced the first significant gold currency in India. Under Kanishka, the coinage became truly multicultural, featuring a wide variety of deities. Later, Vasudeva's issues showed a shift toward Indian religious themes, prominently depicting Siva. However, Kushana copper coins were generally heavy and substantial, unlike the light and small coins suggested in some incorrect descriptions.

51. (C) Lead and Potin

The Satavahana dynasty primarily utilized lead and potin—a copper-base alloy—for the majority of its coinage. These base metals were abundant in the Deccan and suitable for the dynasty's extensive regional commerce. While they also minted copper and some silver portrait coins, the overwhelming frequency of lead and potin issues defines their unique metallurgical tradition. These coins often featured dynastic symbols like the elephant or the Ujjain symbol, reflecting the practical economic needs of the period.

52. (D) They are the last dated coins of the dynasty, ending around 395 CE.

The coins issued by Rudrasimha III mark the conclusion of the Western Kshatrapa dynasty. As with previous rulers of this line, his silver issues featured the king's bust and a date in the Saka era. The cessation of this coinage around 395 CE coincides with the conquest of their territories by the Gupta emperor Chandragupta II. These coins thus provide a critical numismatic terminal point for the history of Saka rule in Western India.

53. (B) 3, 4, 1, 2

Reconstructing the chronology of ancient rulers requires analyzing the stylistic and stratigraphic evidence of their coins. Menander I, an Indo-Greek king, ruled in the 2nd century BCE. Azes II, an Indo-Scythian ruler, followed in the 1st century BCE. Vima Kadphises established the Kushana gold standard in the 1st century CE. Finally, Samudragupta, a major ruler of the Gupta dynasty, reigned much later in the 4th century CE, demonstrating a clear temporal progression.

54. (B) Dinara

The standard gold coin of the Gupta Empire was known as the 'Dinara'. This name reflects

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the influence of the Roman 'Denarius', although the Gupta version was a high-purity gold issue. Dinaras were celebrated for their artistic beauty, depicting the king in various activities on the front and a goddess on the back. They served as the primary medium for high-value state transactions, land grants, and religious donations during the prosperity of the Gupta period.

55. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Debasement, the practice of reducing precious metal content in coins, is a classic numismatic indicator of economic stress, such as war or declining trade. This phenomenon is clearly observed in later Gupta coinage. While early Gupta gold dinaras were of high purity, the issues of later rulers like Skandagupta and his successors show a marked increase in base metal content. This decline reflects the financial pressures caused by prolonged conflicts with invading groups like the Hunas.

56. (A) Kalinjar

The legend 'Kalanjarapanjara' found on Chandella coinage refers to the legendary fortress of Kalinjar. As one of the most strategic and impregnable forts in North India, it served as a symbol of power and prestige for the Chandella dynasty. By featuring this title on their currency, the rulers emphasized their military control over this vital stronghold. Kalinjar was not only a military center but also a significant religious site associated with the worship of Siva.

57. (C) A realistic human portrait

Punch-marked coins, the earliest currency of India, were characterized by aniconic symbols such as the sun, a six-armed wheel, hills, trees, and various animals. They did not feature realistic human portraits, a tradition that was only introduced much later by the Indo-Greeks. The symbols on these early coins were punched individually and likely served as marks of authority, mint identification, or quality control by the issuing state, guilds, or provincial administrators of the time.

58. (A) A collection of coins that were all in circulation at the same time, buried on a single occasion.

A closed hoard refers to a group of coins buried together at a specific point in time, usually due to war or social unrest. Because the coins were all in circulation when they were hidden, they provide a reliable snapshot of the currency system at that moment. This allows numismatists to determine which types were used simultaneously and helps in establishing the relative chronology of different issues based on the degree of wear on the coins.

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59. (D) Chandragupta II

The Chhatra or parasol type of gold coin is a notable issue of Chandragupta II. It depicts the king standing and making an offering at an altar, while a small attendant behind him holds a ceremonial umbrella over his head. This imagery emphasizes the king's imperial status and divine authority. Such coins were part of the sophisticated propaganda used by the Guptas to project an image of majesty and consolidated power during the dynasty's artistic and political peak.

60. (B) 2 and 4

The history of Indian coinage is marked by specific innovations and influences. While punch-marked coins were early, they were replaced by die-struck types in many regions before the Gupta period. Indo-Greek coins were indeed the first in India to feature royal portraits. The Satavahanas primarily used base metals like lead, not gold. Furthermore, the Kushanas adopted a gold weight standard modeled after the Roman aureus to facilitate international trade, reflecting their strategic economic and political priorities.

61. (C) Their vast number and wide distribution attest to a large and prosperous kingdom.

The coinage of Menander I is historically significant due to its immense volume and extensive geographical reach. His silver and copper issues are found across a wide area of North-Western India and beyond, indicating a stable and economically vibrant empire. These coins demonstrate the effective administration and long-ruling status of Menander, who is also celebrated in the Buddhist text Milindapanha. The frequency of his coins confirms his status as the most powerful Indo-Greek king.

62. (D) Gupta coins showing Lakshmi.

The seated goddess motif became a staple of early medieval North Indian coinage, but its origins are traced back to the Gupta gold issues. On Gupta coins, the reverse often depicted a goddess, usually Lakshmi, seated on a throne or a lotus. This design was so prestigious and recognizable that later dynasties, such as the Kalachuris, Chandellas, and even some early Muslim rulers, adopted it for their own currencies to maintain continuity and ensure public acceptance.

63. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Satavahanas, although primarily using lead and potin, issued rare silver portrait coins that clearly imitated the style of the Western Kshatrapas. This was a direct result of their frequent military conflicts and political interactions in Western India. By adopting the portrait style of their rivals, the Satavahana rulers aimed to assert their authority in newly conquered territories where the Kshatrapa silver currency was already established and trusted by the local trading communities.

64. (B) The issuers of the earliest Punch-Marked Coins

Royal portraiture was not a feature of indigenous Indian coinage until the arrival of Hellenistic influences. The earliest punch-marked coins, used from the 6th century BCE, were entirely aniconic, featuring only abstract symbols, animals, or nature-related motifs. It was the Indo-Greeks who first introduced realistic likenesses of kings on coins. Subsequent dynasties like the Western Kshatrapas and some Satavahana rulers adopted this tradition, but the original punch-marked issues remained devoid of individualized human representations.

65. (B) Western Kshatrapas

When the Gupta Empire expanded into Western India under Chandragupta II, they encountered the established silver coinage of the Western Kshatrapas. To ensure a smooth economic transition and local acceptance, the Guptas issued their own silver coins that closely followed the weight, size, and general design of the Kshatrapa issues. These Gupta silver 'rupakas' maintained the tradition of featuring a royal bust, although they replaced Saka symbols with Gupta dynastic marks like the mythical bird Garuda.

66. (A) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Historical coin denominations and types provide clues to the economic life of different periods. 'Karshapana' is a broad ancient term for early silver or copper punch-marked coins. In the Gupta period, gold coins were specifically called 'Dinaras', while silver issues were referred to as 'Rupakas'. During the early medieval era, a distinct type of debased silver or billon currency known as 'Gadhaiya' coins became prevalent in Western India, showing the evolution of monetary terminology and standards over time.

67. (C) political usurpation and victory.

The practice of over-striking or restriking a defeated rival's currency was a powerful symbolic act in ancient India. When Gautamiputra Satakarni restruck the coins of the Kshatrapa ruler Nahapana, he literally impressed his own authority over the physical image of his enemy. This served as a public proclamation of his military triumph and the annexation of the rival's territory. It was an efficient way to demonetize the former regime's currency while asserting new sovereignty.

68. (D) An alloy of a precious metal (usually silver) with a larger amount of a base metal (like copper).

Billon is a metallurgical term for a metal alloy consisting of a small percentage of precious metal, usually silver, mixed with a predominant amount of base metal, such as copper. This alloy was commonly used during periods of economic decline or financial strain when the state needed to increase the quantity of currency while reducing costs. Many early medieval Indian coins, including the Gadhaiya series, were minted in billon, reflecting the economic transitions of that era.

69. (C) Samudragupta

The lyrist type is one of the most unique and artistically celebrated gold coins of the Gupta dynasty, specifically associated with Samudragupta. It depicts the king seated on a high-backed couch, playing a vina or lute. This imagery provides rare insight into the personal

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legends, typically written in the Brahmi script. Occasionally, they also utilized the Kharoshthi script for certain regional issues. This choice of language and script distinguishes their coinage from the Sanskrit-heavy issues of the later Guptas or the Greek-based issues of the Indo-Greeks. Their coins provide valuable linguistic evidence for the widespread administrative use of Prakrit in Central and South India during that era.

100. (A) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Gupta coinage is characterized by gold dinaras and silver rupakas featuring high artistic merit. The obverse usually displays the monarch in various poses, while the reverse often features a goddess like Lakshmi. Rulers like Kumaragupta I issued an incredible variety of types, including elephant-rider and peacock motifs. However, the legends were written in classical Sanskrit using the Brahmi script, not in Prakrit or Kharoshthi, reflecting the dynasty's patronage of elite culture and the Sanskrit language revival.

101. (C) The prepared, un-struck piece of metal on which the coin design is impressed.

In the process of die-striking, a 'flan' or 'blank' is a smooth, carefully weighed piece of metal that has been prepared to receive a design. This metal disc is placed between two engraved dies, and a heavy blow is applied to transfer the image onto its surface. The quality and weight of the flan were strictly controlled in ancient mints to ensure that each coin met the required standard for circulation and value in commerce.

102. (B) Indo-Greeks

The Indo-Scythian (Saka) and Indo-Parthian kings, who migrated into North-Western India, largely adopted the numismatic traditions of the Indo-Greeks whom they supplanted. Their coinage followed the Hellenistic model of featuring a royal portrait or horseman on the obverse and a deity on the reverse. They also continued the practice of using bilingual and bi-scriptual legends in Greek and Kharoshthi. This continuity demonstrates the strong influence of Greek monetary standards and artistic styles on subsequent foreign dynasties in India.

103. (D) re-validate a coin for circulation and assert new sovereignty.

Counter-marking or over-striking was a common historical practice where a new ruler impressed their own symbols or name over an existing coin from a previous or rival authority. This served two purposes: it officially validated the older coin for continued use in the new regime's economy and acted as a clear political statement of conquest or shift in power. This method allowed a ruler to quickly establish their sovereignty over a region without the need to mint entirely new currency.

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104. (A) The exclusive use of Brahmi script and Sanskrit language.

Kushana coinage is notable for its multicultural character and was not limited to the Brahmi script or Sanskrit. They initially used Greek and subsequently adopted a modified Greek script to write the Bactrian language. Their coins depicted a vast array of deities from Greek, Iranian, and Indian traditions, reflecting the diverse religious landscape of their empire. While they did influence Indian culture, their numismatic output was primarily defined by Hellenistic and Central Asian traditions rather than exclusive Indian scripts.

105. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The discovery of coin moulds at various ancient sites provides physical evidence for the widespread use of the casting technique, especially for copper currency. However, it is a common numismatic fact that cast coins are generally considered artistically inferior to die-struck coins. The casting process often results in softer details and occasional irregularities, whereas die-striking allows for much sharper, higher-relief imagery and more intricate designs, making die-struck coins the preferred method for high-value and prestigious state issues.

106. (A) The Western Kshatrapas

The Lion-slayer gold coin type of Chandragupta II is believed to commemorate his significant military triumph over the Western Kshatrapas. By defeating the Sakas, the Guptas gained control over the prosperous trading ports of Western India. The imagery of the king slaying a lion symbolized his prowess and the subduing of a powerful enemy. This series was part of a larger numismatic program to celebrate the expansion

77. (A) 2, 3, 1

Ancient dynasties used different metals as their primary coinage material based on availability and economic needs. The Satavahanas were characterized by their extensive use of base metals like lead and potin. The Western Kshatrapas primarily minted silver currency for regional trade in Western India. The Gupta Empire reached a peak of prosperity, being most famous for its high-quality gold dinaras. This progression from base to precious metals reflects the varying economic scales and metallurgical focuses of these dynasties.

78. (D) 'heads' or principal side of the coin.

In numismatic terminology, the 'obverse' refers to the principal or 'heads' side of a coin. This side usually features the most important image, such as the portrait of the reigning monarch, a significant deity, or the primary state symbol. In ancient Indian coinage, the obverse often provided the name and titles of the issuer, serving as the official face of the currency. The opposite side is known as the reverse, which contains secondary motifs or legends.

79. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Chandragupta II's conquest of the Western Kshatrapas is numismatically documented through his silver coinage. After defeating the last Saka ruler, the Guptas issued silver coins for the newly annexed western provinces that intentionally mimicked the fabric, weight, and style of the existing Kshatrapa currency. By replacing the Saka symbols with his own, such as the Garuda motif, Chandragupta II ensured economic continuity while clearly signaling his political victory and the end of the rival dynasty's rule.

80. (B) Weaving metal threads into a disc

Ancient Indian coin manufacturing utilized several physical and metallurgical processes. Punch-marking involved striking silver bars or sheets with symbols. Casting used clay or terracotta moulds to shape molten metal into coins. Die-striking involved pressing a metal flan between two engraved stamps to create a detailed design. Weaving metal threads into a disc, however, was never a technique for coinage; coins required a solid metallic body and standardized weight to serve as a reliable medium of exchange in commerce.

81. (B) the state of the economy and metallurgical skills.

Analyzing the metallic composition and purity of ancient coins allows historians to assess the economic health of a state. High-purity gold or silver coins often indicate a period of prosperity and strong central authority. Conversely, the presence of debased alloys or a sudden drop in precious metal content typically suggests economic stress, inflation, or political instability. Furthermore, the specific alloys used reveal the advanced metallurgical knowledge and mining capabilities available to different ancient Indian dynasties and regions.

82. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Uninscribed cast copper coins and silver punch-marked coins likely functioned as a dual monetary system in ancient India. While high-value silver coins were used for major trade and state payments, small copper cast coins served the daily needs of local markets and common people. This tiered system allowed for greater economic flexibility and efficiency, ensuring that both large-scale commerce and local retail transactions could be supported by appropriate denominations of metal currency across different regions and periods.

83. (C) republican or tribal constitution.

The legend 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya' is direct numismatic evidence of the tribe's political organization. By using the word 'Gana', which translates to a republic or an assembly-ruled state, the Yaudheyas clearly identified themselves as a non-monarchical polity. This inscription, often found on their copper coins alongside the figure of the war-god Kartikeya, confirms that power was shared among members of the tribe rather than being concentrated in a single hereditary king, highlighting India's diverse political traditions.

84. (B) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Different ancient Indian dynasties specialized in various metals for their coinage. The Kushanas are famous for their gold and extensive copper

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39. (D) Indo-Greeks

The arrival of the Indo-Greeks in North-Western India marked a significant technological shift from the indigenous punch-marked tradition to the more sophisticated die-striking technique. This Hellenistic method allowed for the production of circular coins with high-relief designs, including realistic royal portraits and complex legends on both sides. This innovation set a new standard for Indian coinage, influencing subsequent dynasties such as the Sakas, Kushanas, and eventually the Guptas in their currency designs.

40. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

Archaeological gaps in coin finds often suggest periods of economic contraction or a shift toward barter systems. However, it is incorrect to assume that all ancient Indian societies used coins for every single transaction. While coins were essential for large-scale trade and state taxes, many local and rural exchanges continued to rely on barter or alternative mediums like cowrie shells. Therefore, the presence of coinage varied significantly across different regions, social classes, and economic sectors.

41. (C) introducing a large-scale gold coinage for the first time in the dynasty.

Vima Kadphises is a pivotal figure in Indian numismatics as he was the first Kushana emperor to issue a substantial gold currency. This move signaled the economic maturity of the Kushana state and its deep involvement in international commerce. His gold coins, often featuring the king making an offering at an altar and the deity Siva on the reverse, established the weight standard and stylistic conventions that defined Kushana coinage for several generations.

42. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-2, S-1

Specific ancient rulers are identified by unique coin types that highlight their achievements or religious preferences. Samudragupta is famous for his lyrist type gold coins, while Kanishka I issued coins depicting the deity Oesho, an early representation of Siva. Gautamiputra Satakarni is known for restriking the coins of his rival Nahapana to assert his victory. Finally, Rudradaman I and other Western Kshatrapas issued silver coins containing precise dates recorded in the Saka era.

43. (D) classical cultural efflorescence of the Gupta age.

The exceptional artistic quality of Gupta gold coinage is widely regarded as a reflection of the Golden Age of Indian history. These coins exhibit refined imagery, sophisticated Sanskrit legends, and a high degree of technical mastery. The elegant depictions of the king in various roles—as a warrior, musician, or hunter—mirrored the broader cultural and intellectual flourishing of the period, demonstrating the Gupta dynasty's commitment to aesthetic excellence and imperial prestige.

44. (B) The site was part of an active trade network with the Roman Empire in the early 1st century CE.

Finding a hoard of coins featuring Augustus and Tiberius in Tamil Nadu provides direct archaeological proof of South India's participation in the global trade network of the 1st century CE. These coins were used as high-value currency to pay for luxury goods like black pepper and textiles exported to the Roman Empire. The discovery confirms that Southern ports were vital commercial hubs, facilitating the exchange of Indian commodities for Roman gold and silver bullion.

45. (C) Gold

Prior to the influence of the Indo-Greeks and the subsequent establishment of the Kushana Empire, gold was rarely used as a primary material for coinage in ancient India. The earliest indigenous currency consisted almost entirely of silver and copper punch-marked coins. While gold was highly valued and used for ornaments or as bullion, the systematic minting of gold coins for circulation only became a significant feature of the Indian economy during the early centuries of the Common Era.

46. (D) A coin made from a mould that bears symbols but no written legend.

Un-inscribed cast coins are metal issues, usually made of copper, produced by pouring molten metal into pre-engraved moulds. These coins are characterized by various symbolic motifs

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propaganda, a practice subsequently adopted by many other Indian dynasties.

92. (B) Samudragupta

The Standard Type gold coin, featuring the king holding a ceremonial staff or banner, was first introduced by Samudragupta. This design became a foundational type for Gupta numismatics, being widely adopted and modified by his successors. It depicted the emperor in a formal, martial pose, projecting an image of stability and imperial power. The widespread issuance of this type helped establish a consistent visual identity for the Gupta dynasty's currency throughout their vast and prosperous empire.

93. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The evolution of Indian coinage began with the indigenous punch-marked issues, which were entirely devoid of written inscriptions, relying instead on a system of abstract symbols. The practice of including the issuer's name and titles was introduced to the subcontinent by the Indo-Greeks in the 2nd century BCE. This Hellenistic influence permanently transformed Indian numismatics, leading subsequent dynasties to use coins as historical documents that record the names, achievements, and chronologies of various reigning monarchs.

94. (D) Yaudheyas

The coins of the Yaudheya tribal republic are frequently discovered across the modern-day regions of Haryana and Eastern Rajasthan. This distribution pattern helps historians map the territorial influence of this martial community during the early centuries CE. Their coins, predominantly made of copper, often feature the war-god Kartikeya and celebrate the tribe's victories. These numismatic finds are essential for reconstructing the history of autonomous tribal groups that maintained their independence between the fall of major North Indian empires.

95. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Early medieval Indian coinage shows a general trend toward debasement and a lack of the artistic refinement characteristic of the Gupta era. This shift was largely driven by the fragmentation of political power into smaller regional kingdoms and a subsequent decline in long-distance maritime and overland trade. These economic constraints limited the availability of precious metals and skilled artisans, forcing local rulers to issue less sophisticated and lower-purity currency to meet their immediate administrative and commercial needs.

96. (B) Kushana

The deity Ardoksho, a Central Asian goddess of abundance and fortune, is a very common motif on the reverse of Kushana coinage. She is typically depicted seated on a high-backed throne, holding a cornucopia. This figure symbolized the prosperity and divine favor of the Kushana Empire. The popularity of Ardoksho reflects the cultural syncretism of the dynasty and influenced later Indian coinage, as her image was eventually adapted into representations of the Hindu goddess Lakshmi by the Guptas.

97. (A) Western Kshatrapas

The Gupta silver 'rupaka' was first introduced under Chandragupta II to serve the economic needs of the western territories conquered from the Western Kshatrapas. Since the local population was accustomed to the silver currency of the previous Saka rulers, the Guptas issued silver coins that mirrored the weight and style of the Kshatrapa issues. This administrative decision ensured a smooth transition in commerce while replacing the enemy's dynastic symbols with those of the Gupta Empire, such as the bird Garuda.

98. (A) 3, 2, 1, 4

Indian coinage transitioned through several stylistic and technological phases. It began with aniconic symbols on punch-marked coins around the 6th century BCE. The Indo-Greeks introduced realistic royal portraits in the 2nd century BCE. Later, dynasties like the Guptas used Sanskrit legends in the Brahmi script to record imperial titles. Finally, the standard motif of a seated goddess on the reverse became a prominent feature during the peak of Gupta numismatics and continued into the early medieval period.

99. (C) Satavahanas

The Satavahana dynasty, which ruled the Deccan, used Prakrit as their official language for coin

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accomplishments of the ruler, portraying him as a man of culture and arts rather than just a conqueror. The coin serves as a testament to the sophisticated court life of the Gupta period.

70. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Contrary to the belief that Kanishka I only depicted Buddhist figures, Kushana coinage is actually famous for its vast and diverse religious pantheon. While Kanishka was a patron of Buddhism, his coins feature a syncretic mix of deities from Greek, Iranian, and Indian traditions, including Helios, Mithra, and Siva. This inclusive approach was a pragmatic administrative strategy to integrate the various ethnic and religious communities living within his extensive empire, from Central Asia to North India.

71. (D) A chronological succession from an indigenous coinage to a Hellenistic-influenced one.

Stratigraphic evidence in archaeology is crucial for determining the relative timing of different historical phases. Finding punch-marked coins in a lower layer and die-struck Indo-Greek coins in the layer immediately above it confirms that the indigenous symbolic currency preceded the Hellenistic tradition of portrait-based coinage at that site. This sequence helps historians trace the impact of foreign invasions and the subsequent changes in technology and administrative practices within the ancient Indian monetary system over time.

72. (A) Siva

The Kunindas were an ancient tribal republic located in the Himalayan foothills. Their silver and copper coinage prominently features religious imagery, most notably the figure of the deity Siva holding a trident. These coins often include legends in both Brahmi and Kharoshthi scripts, mentioning the name of the tribe and their ruler. The depiction of Siva highlights the religious affiliations of the community and demonstrates how tribal republics used coinage to assert their identity and devotion.

73. (C) Literary and epigraphic texts

Coins serve as an indispensable primary source that often validates or corrects information found in ancient literature and inscriptions. While texts might exaggerate a king's conquests or provide incomplete genealogies, numismatic evidence provides tangible proof of a ruler's existence, his actual titles, and the geographical reach of his economy. By cross-referencing coin legends with epigraphic records, historians can construct a more accurate and detailed chronological framework for dynasties that were previously known only through fragmentary accounts.

74. (A) 1, 3 and 4

Roman gold and silver coins are found extensively in Southern India, reflecting a trade surplus for Indian merchants who exported spices and luxury goods. These coins were often treated as bullion and sometimes 'slashed' with a knife to demonetize them for local use as treasure. While they influenced the weight of Kushana gold, they were not widely found in the North compared to the South. Their presence confirms the intense commercial maritime links between India and Rome.

75. (D) To provide a precise chronological framework for their reigns.

The Western Kshatrapas were among the few ancient Indian dynasties to systematically record dates on their silver coinage. Using the Saka era, these dates were inscribed on the reverse of the coins, usually behind the king's head. This practice allowed historians to accurately determine the regnal years of each ruler and the total duration of the dynasty. This exceptional record-keeping makes their coinage one of the most reliable sources for dating the political history of Western India.

76. (B) suggest the political importance of the Lichchhavi alliance for the rise of the Guptas.

The King and Queen type gold coins, featuring Chandragupta I and his queen Kumaradevi, are historically significant because they explicitly mention the Lichchhavi tribe on the reverse. This indicates that the marriage alliance with the prestigious Lichchhavi clan was a critical factor in the initial expansion and legitimacy of the Gupta dynasty. These coins are unique commemorative issues that highlight how matrimonial politics played a fundamental role in the foundation of the Gupta imperial structure.

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of the Gupta Empire into the strategically important regions of Gujarat and Malwa.

107. (D) Numismatic palaeography

Numismatic palaeography is the specialized study of the scripts and writing styles found on coins. By analyzing the form and evolution of letters in legends, researchers can date coins more accurately and trace the regional variations of scripts like Brahmi, Kharoshthi, or Greek. This discipline is essential for deciphering the names and titles of rulers, providing a chronological anchor for dynasties and helping historians understand the linguistic and administrative shifts that occurred across different periods of ancient history.

108. (B) P-4, Q-2, R-1, S-3

The distribution of tribal coins helps locate the homelands of ancient Indian republics. Yaudheya coins are mostly found in the Haryana-Punjab region, while Kuninda issues are concentrated in the Himalayan foothills of Uttarakhand. Audumbara coins are primarily located in the Pathankot area of Punjab, and Arjunayana finds are centered around the Bharatpur-Alwar region of Rajasthan. Mapping these find-spots is critical for identifying the geographical boundaries of these autonomous communities that existed outside the main imperial centers.

109. (C) To appeal to the diverse ethnic and religious groups within their vast empire.

The Kushanas ruled over an exceptionally diverse territory that stretched from Central Asia to the heart of Northern India. By depicting a wide range of Greek, Iranian, and Indian deities on their coinage, the rulers practiced a form of religious and cultural syncretism. This pragmatic approach helped legitimate their authority among various populations, including Zoroastrians, Buddhists, and followers of early Brahmanical traditions. The coins functioned as a visual medium to promote social cohesion and political stability across their vast empire.

110. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Gupta silver coinage was not a feature of the early dynasty but was introduced by Chandragupta II after his successful conquest of the Western Kshatrapas. Since the newly annexed territories in Malwa and Gujarat were accustomed to the high-quality silver currency of the previous Saka rulers, the Guptas issued silver 'rupakas' to maintain economic stability. These coins adopted the local weight standards and style, demonstrating the Gupta administration's ability to adapt to regional economic realities following military expansion.

111. (A) Satavahanas

The Ujjain symbol, characterized by a cross with four circles at its ends, is a diagnostic feature of Satavahana coinage. It appeared consistently on the reverse of their diverse currency, which included lead, potin, copper, and silver issues. This motif is often found alongside other regional symbols like the three-arched hill or animals like the elephant and lion. For numismatists, the presence of the Ujjain symbol is the primary indicator for identifying and dating the extensive monetary output of the Satavahana dynasty.

112. (B) Regionalization and general decline in the quality of coins.

Early medieval Indian coinage is marked by a clear shift from the standardized imperial issues of the Gupta era to more localized and often debased regional types. This period saw the fragmentation of political power, leading many smaller dynasties to issue their own distinct currencies. There was an overall reduction in the circulation of high-purity gold, and the artistic quality of coins frequently declined. These changes reflect the economic decentralization and the growing importance of local markets during this transitional historical phase.

113. (A) 1, 2 and 3

Punch-marked coins were the earliest standardized currency in India, characterized by irregular shapes because they were often cut from metal sheets and then weighed. While shape varied, their weight was strictly regulated to maintain value. The symbols punched onto them represented the authority of states, guilds, or local officials. Most of these early issues were made of silver, although copper was also used. They remained the primary medium of exchange across the subcontinent for several centuries during the pre-Mauryan and Mauryan eras.

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Indo-Greek coins introduced realistic and individualized royal portraits. Kushana coinage is notable for its multicultural and diverse pantheon of various gods and goddesses. Finally, the Gupta dynasty is famous for its elegant gold coins featuring Sanskrit legends and the depiction of the goddess Lakshmi, reflecting the cultural refinement of their imperial age.

129. (B) Kushanas

While gold coins were minted in small numbers by the Indo-Greeks, it was the Kushana dynasty that first introduced a large-scale, standardized gold currency in the Indian subcontinent. Starting with Vima Kadphises, the Kushanas produced vast quantities of gold coins to support their role in the international trade of the Silk Road. Their gold issues established a weight standard modeled after the Roman aureus, ensuring that their currency remained a prestigious and globally accepted medium of exchange for centuries.

130. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The geographic distribution of Roman coin hoards is significantly concentrated in Southern India and the Deccan. This pattern is explained by the intense maritime trade that connected the Roman world with Indian ports via the Arabian Sea. South India exported high-value luxury goods such as black pepper, beryl, and pearls, for which the Romans paid in large amounts of gold and silver currency. This sea-based commercial link was more efficient for bulk transport than the challenging overland northern routes.

131. (C) adopted the weight standard and general style of the defeated enemy.

After defeating the Western Kshatrapas, Chandragupta II issued silver coins that were intentionally designed to resemble the currency of the conquered Saka rulers. By maintaining the same weight standard, size, and general bust-type design, the Gupta administration ensured that the new coinage would be easily accepted by local merchants and the public in the western provinces. This pragmatic economic strategy allowed for a seamless transition while replacing Saka religious and dynastic symbols with Gupta ones like the Garuda.

132. (D) Porcelain coins

Ancient Indian coinage was almost exclusively made from various metals and their alloys, including gold, silver, copper, lead, and potin. Common manufacturing techniques included punch-marking, casting in moulds, and die-striking. Porcelain, a type of ceramic material, was never used as a standard medium for coinage in ancient or medieval India. While alternative currencies like cowrie shells were used for small transactions, metallic coins remained the primary standard for official state issues and larger-scale commercial and administrative activities.

133. (A) 1, 3 and 4

Janapada coins provide essential evidence for the early territorial states and autonomous tribes that existed before the Mauryan Empire. These coins, such as the unique bar-shaped issues of Gandhara, were primarily punch-marked rather than die-struck and did not feature royal portraits. They were typically made of silver or copper, with gold being extremely rare in this early period. Their distribution helps historians identify the geographical reach and economic development of these early Indian political entities during the pre-Mauryan era.

134. (B) Kumaragupta I

The 'Fan-tailed Peacock' or 'Kartikeya' type is a prestigious coin series specifically issued by the Gupta emperor Kumaragupta I. These coins depict the deity Kartikeya, the god of war, seated on his vahana, the peacock. The reverse often shows the king making an offering to the peacock. This choice of imagery reflects the emperor's personal devotion and the symbolic association of his name, Kumara, with the deity. These coins are celebrated for their exceptional artistic beauty and technical craftsmanship.

135. (D) Achaemenid Persian Empire

The use of the Kharoshthi script in North-Western India was a lasting cultural legacy of the Achaemenid Persian Empire's influence in the region. Kharoshthi was derived from the Aramaic script, which was the official administrative language of the Persian Empire. This script was subsequently adopted by various regional powers, including the Indo-Greeks, Sakas, and

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because they record the existence of numerous small, independent polities that are frequently ignored by major literary texts. These coins provide evidence for local identities, republican forms of government, and regional economic activity. By studying the symbols and legends of these autonomous groups, historians can gain a more nuanced and decentralized view of the political landscape that existed beyond the boundaries of the great imperial powers.

122. (A) 3, 2, 1, 4

Indian numismatic history follows a clear chronological path starting with the indigenous punch-marked silver coins in the 6th century BCE. The Indo-Greeks introduced the die-striking technique in the 2nd century BCE, bringing realistic portraits to the subcontinent. Later, in the early centuries CE, the Satavahanas issued their unique ship-type coins reflecting maritime trade. Finally, the Gupta dynasty reached its peak from the 4th century CE onwards, producing their highly sophisticated and artistically refined archer-type gold coins for imperial circulation.

123. (D) Kushana-Sassanian traditions.

The Bull and Horseman coin type is a classic example of numismatic continuity in North-Western India. This motif, featuring a seated bull on one side and a mounted horseman on the other, evolved from earlier Kushana and Sassanian designs. It was popularized by the Shahi kings and subsequently adopted by various Rajput dynasties and even early Islamic rulers. This long-lived type demonstrates how certain powerful images remained relevant and accepted by the public across different political and religious regimes for many centuries.

124. (B) weight and measurements.

Metrology is a critical branch of numismatics that focuses on the systematic study of the weights and physical dimensions of coins. By analyzing these measurements, historians can identify different denominations, understand the standards of value used by ancient states, and detect instances of debasement or inflation. Comparing weight standards across different dynasties also reveals patterns of trade and the influence of foreign monetary systems, providing essential quantitative data for the study of ancient and medieval Indian economic history.

125. (B) 2 and 4 only

Different ancient Indian coinage systems are defined by specific characteristics. The Satavahanas are correctly associated with ship motifs and the Ujjain symbol. Indo-Greek coins are famously bilingual and bi-scriptual, using Greek and local scripts. However, it was the Western Kshatrapas, not the Guptas, who consistently featured dates in the Saka era on their silver coins. Additionally, while some Kushana coins feature Siva, they were more famous for their exceptionally diverse syncretic pantheon of Greek, Iranian, and Indian deities.

126. (D) Gautamiputra's victory over Nahapana.

The discovery of Gautamiputra Satakarni's name restruck over the silver coins of the Western Kshatrapa king Nahapana is a definitive archaeological proof of a major political shift. This practice, known as over-striking, was used to demonetize the former ruler's currency and assert the conqueror's authority in the newly annexed territory. The Jogalthambi hoard, containing thousands of such coins, confirms the historical account of the Satavahana triumph over their Saka rivals in the early 2nd century CE.

127. (A) Coinage became highly regional, with many dynasties issuing their own distinct types, often of debased metal.

The early medieval period in India was characterized by political fragmentation, which directly impacted the monetary system. As central authority weakened, numerous regional dynasties began minting their own localized currencies. This era saw a general decline in the circulation of high-purity gold coins, with many rulers resorting to debased alloys like billon. While trade continued, it became more localized, and the artistic quality and technical standards of coins generally fell below the high water mark set by the earlier Gupta Empire.

128. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Each major phase of ancient Indian history produced coins with distinct diagnostic features. Punch-marked coins are recognized by their multiple aniconic symbols and lack of legends.

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dating their currency. The practice of recording precise dates in the Saka era was a hallmark of the Western Kshatrapas. Indo-Greek coins are indeed famous for realistic portraits, and Kushana coinage is known for its syncretic pantheon of diverse deities. The Satavahanas are correctly associated with the ship motif, symbolizing their maritime power. These distinctions are vital for correctly identifying ancient dynasties.

144. (B) the circulation of coins through long-distance trade routes.

Finding high-value coins like Gupta gold dinaras far outside their political boundaries is most accurately interpreted as evidence of extensive trade. Coins often traveled great distances through the hands of merchants and travelers, serving as a trusted medium of exchange well beyond the direct control of the issuing monarch. Such finds help historians map ancient commercial networks and understand the economic integration between different regions, even in the absence of formal political annexation or military conquest.

145. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Punch-marked coins are found across the entire Indian subcontinent, indicating a high level of economic integration during the early historical period. This widespread distribution is largely attributed to the administrative efficiency of the Mauryan Empire. By adopting and standardizing this indigenous form of currency, the Mauryas facilitated trade and tax collection across their vast territories. The uniformity of symbols on these coins across distant regions suggests a centralized system of minting and control that supported a Pan-Indian monetary economy.

146. (A) Guptas

The depiction of a seated goddess, usually identified as Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, is a standard feature on the reverse of Gupta gold coins. She is often shown seated on a lotus or a throne, holding a cornucopia or a lotus flower. This imagery emphasized the prosperity of the empire and the divine blessing upon the reigning monarch. This prestigious motif was so widely recognized that it was later adopted and imitated by various early medieval Indian dynasties.

147. (C) 600 CE to 1200 CE

The study of early medieval Indian coinage focuses on the period between approximately 600 CE and 1200 CE. This era, following the fall of the Gupta Empire, was marked by the rise of various regional dynasties like the Gurjara-Pratiharas, Palas, and Chandelas. The coinage of this period reflects the political fragmentation of the subcontinent, with a shift toward more localized types, the use of debased metals, and the adoption of simplified artistic motifs like the seated goddess or the bull-and-horseman.

148. (D) Indo-Greeks

The practice of placing the king's name and official titles in a circular legend around his portrait was a Hellenistic numismatic tradition introduced to India by the Indo-Greeks. This innovation provided a direct and durable record of the issuing authority, transforming coins into important historical documents. Before this, Indian coins like the punch-marked series were entirely symbolic and anonymous. The Indo-Greek model established a standard for royal self-representation that was subsequently followed by the Sakas, Kushanas, and the Gupta Empire.

149. (A) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

Specific Gupta rulers are associated with distinct and artistically diverse gold coin types. Chandragupta I is credited with the King and Queen type, celebrating his Lichchhavi alliance. Samudragupta is famous for the Lyrist type, highlighting his musical talents. Chandragupta II issued the Chhatra type, emphasizing his imperial majesty. Finally, Kumaragupta I is well known for the Kartikeya type, showing the deity on a peacock, reflecting his personal religious devotion and the sophisticated imagery of his lengthy and prosperous reign.

150. (B) a silver or copper punch-marked coin.

The term 'Karshapana' is frequently mentioned in ancient Indian literature and inscriptions to refer to the standard metallic currency of the time. It most commonly denoted the indigenous punch-marked coins made of silver or copper. Karshapanas served as the primary medium of

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Kushanas, for their bilingual coin legends. It served as a critical medium for communication and administration in the multicultural frontier regions of ancient India for several centuries.

136. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The coinage of Vasudeva I signifies a period of profound Indianization within the Kushana dynasty. His name itself is a common Indian theophoric name, and his currency shows a sharp departure from the diverse Greco-Iranian pantheon favored by his predecessors. The vast majority of his coins prominently feature the Indian deity Siva accompanied by his bull, Nandi. This numismatic evidence confirms that the Kushanas had become deeply integrated into the religious and cultural traditions of their Indian territories by his reign.

137. (C) Die-striking

Die-striking is the most advanced manufacturing technique utilized in ancient numismatics, allowing for high-relief, detailed designs on both the obverse and reverse of a coin. Introduced to India by the Indo-Greeks, this method ensured uniformity in weight and appearance, making the currency more difficult to counterfeit. Unlike the irregular shapes of punch-marked coins or the softer details of cast coins, die-struck issues provided a clear and prestigious medium for projecting the ruler's portrait and imperial titles.

138. (A) Vishvamitra

The Audumbaras were an ancient tribal republic whose silver and copper coins provide rare insights into their local legends. The legends on their coins frequently make reference to the sage Vishvamitra, who is considered a legendary ancestor or spiritual patron of the tribe. Some coins even depict a figure identified as the sage himself. This unique feature highlights the intersection of tribal identity, religious tradition, and political autonomy in the foothills of the Punjab region during the early historical period.

139. (D) reducing the proportion of precious metal in a coin's alloy.

Debasement is a fiscal practice where the state reduces the purity of its precious metal currency by increasing the amount of base metal, such as copper, in the alloy. This often occurred during times of financial crisis, such as war or a trade deficit, to stretch the available supply of gold or silver. In Indian history, the debasement of Gupta gold coins in the later periods serves as clear evidence of the economic strain caused by internal conflicts and external invasions.

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140. (B) 1, 2 and 3

Satavahana coinage was highly diverse in its use of materials, with lead, potin, and copper being the most common for regional trade. Later rulers also issued a limited number of silver portrait coins to compete with their Western Kshatrapa rivals. Characteristic motifs included the ship, elephant, and the Ujjain symbol. However, their legends were typically written in Prakrit using the Brahmi script, rather than Sanskrit. This variety reflects the dynasty's control over the vast and multicultural regions of the Deccan.

141. (C) presence or absence of a written legend.

Both inscribed and uninscribed cast coins were manufactured using the same basic technique of pouring molten metal into moulds. The primary distinction between the two types is that uninscribed cast coins feature only symbolic motifs, whereas inscribed cast coins include written legends, such as the name of a city, a tribe, or a specific ruler. Inscribed issues generally appeared later and provide more direct historical evidence, while uninscribed issues represent an earlier or more local form of standardized metallic currency.

142. (D) economic strain on the empire, possibly due to invasions by the Hunas.

The noticeable decline in the gold content of later Gupta coins is a classic example of fiscal debasement. Historians interpret this as a sign of significant economic pressure on the state treasury. During the reigns of Skandagupta and his successors, the empire faced constant threats from the Hunas and other internal rebellions. The need to finance large armies and defensive campaigns led to the issuance of gold coins with a higher proportion of base metal, reflecting the waning prosperity of the empire.

143. (A) Guptas - King's bust with dates in Saka era

While the Guptas did issue silver coins with a royal bust, they did not use the Saka era for

vast Kushana territories across Central Asia and North India.

158. (D) Sakas (Western Kshatrapas)

When the Gupta Empire conquered the western regions under Chandragupta II, they encountered an economy where the silver coinage of the Sakas or Western Kshatrapas was firmly established. To facilitate a smooth political and economic transition, the Guptas issued silver coins that were direct imitations of the Saka types in terms of size, weight, and the presence of a royal bust. This pragmatic approach ensured that the new Gupta silver 'rupakas' were immediately accepted by the local merchants and the general public.

159. (A) A uniform gold currency of high purity was established across India.

Early medieval Indian coinage is generally characterized by a lack of uniformity and a decline in precious metal purity compared to the Gupta age. Instead of a single high-purity gold standard, the period saw the rise of numerous regional types, such as the 'Gadhaiya' coins in the West and the 'seated goddess' types in the North and Central regions. Many of these issues were made of debased silver or billon, reflecting the economic decentralization and fragmented political landscape of the era.

160. (A) 1 and 3

Casting and die-striking were two fundamental but different techniques in ancient coin manufacturing. Casting involved using clay moulds for molten metal, which was an efficient way to mass-produce low-value copper coins. In contrast, die-striking, popularized by the Indo-Greeks, involved striking a metal flan between two engraved stamps. This method was technically superior, producing coins with much sharper details, high relief, and intricate designs on both sides. Punch-marking was a separate, earlier technique, and potin was a base metal alloy, not a gold one.

161. (B) 'great satrap' or senior provincial governor.

The title 'Mahakshatrapa' found on Saka coins is a Persian-derived term meaning 'Great Satrap'. In the administrative hierarchy of the Scythian rulers, it denoted a senior provincial governor who often enjoyed considerable autonomy and the right to mint coins. This title was frequently paired with 'Kshatrapa' (Junior Satrap) on coins, reflecting a dual-governing system. Over time, as these governors became more powerful, the title came to represent independent kingship while maintaining a nominal link to their ancestral political traditions.

162. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Gupta gold coins are renowned for their artistic excellence, but their true historical value lies in the rich imagery they depict. Unlike the more standardized portraits of earlier dynasties, Gupta coins show rulers in various dynamic roles, such as hunting lions, playing music, or performing religious sacrifices. These scenes provide vivid insights into the royal ideology, cultural life, and personal accomplishments of the emperors, making the coinage a sophisticated medium for communicating the power and refinement of the Gupta state.

163. (C) they were used for everyday, small-value transactions.

The widespread archaeological discovery of uninscribed cast copper coins indicates that they were a common and essential part of the ancient Indian monetary system. Due to their low intrinsic value and mass-produced nature, these coins were ideal for everyday retail transactions and local market exchanges. While gold and silver coins were used for major trade and state payments, these copper issues met the basic economic needs of the common people, reflecting a developed and layered monetary economy in early historical India.

164. (D) imitations of the coins of Roman and late Indo-Greek rulers.

The earliest phase of Kushana coinage under Kujula Kadphises reflects the dynasty's transitional status. Lacking an established numismatic tradition of their own, the first Kushana rulers issued copper coins that were primarily imitations of the types used by the Roman Empire and the late Indo-Greek kings. These issues often featured the bust of a ruler like Augustus or Hermaeus, showing how the Kushanas leveraged existing, trusted monetary designs to establish their economic presence in

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exchange for a wide range of economic activities, from local market transactions to state taxes, during the Mahajanapada and Mauryan periods. The name itself reflects the traditional weight standard used for these early forms of Indian money.

151. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The Yaudheyas were a famously martial tribe, and their coins provide strong evidence of their warrior identity. Their legends, such as 'Victory of the Yaudheyas', and the depiction of the war-god Kartikeya holding a spear, clearly celebrate their military character and independent spirit. It is historically incorrect to describe them as a purely peaceful agricultural group; instead, they were recognized in both numismatic and literary sources as a powerful and resilient republic that resisted various imperial expansions.

152. (A) Silver, copper, gold, and alloys like lead and potin were all used by various dynasties depending on the period and purpose.

Ancient Indian coinage utilized a wide range of metals, reflecting the regional availability of resources and the specific needs of the economy. While silver and copper were common from the earliest periods, the Kushanas and Guptas introduced extensive gold currency for high-value transactions. In the Deccan, the Satavahanas utilized lead and potin for local commerce. This diversity demonstrates the sophisticated metallurgical knowledge of ancient Indian mints and the flexible monetary strategies employed by different dynasties across several centuries.

153. (C) the seated goddess motif on the reverse.

The coinage of the Kalachuri dynasty, a significant power in early medieval central India, is primarily identified by the depiction of a seated goddess on the reverse. This motif, often representing Lakshmi, was derived from the earlier Gupta gold coins and became a standard design for several Rajput dynasties. The obverse typically features a legend in the Nagari script. This choice of imagery reflects the dynasty's effort to maintain monetary continuity and legitimacy during a period of political regionalization.

154. (C) Western Kshatrapas

The description of silver coins featuring a royal bust, a hill symbol, and most importantly, dates in the Saka era, perfectly identifies the coinage of the Western Kshatrapas. These rulers, of Scythian origin, controlled parts of Western India and issued a remarkably consistent silver currency for several centuries. The inclusion of the date and the name of the king's father on the coins makes them an invaluable chronological source, allowing historians to reconstruct the dynasty's history with exceptional precision.

155. (D) spices, pepper, and precious stones.

The vast quantities of Roman coins found in South India are a direct result of the high demand in the Roman Empire for luxury goods from the East. Indian merchants exported large volumes of black pepper—known as black gold—along with exotic spices, fine textiles, and gemstones like beryl. Since the Romans had few comparable commodities to offer in exchange, they were forced to pay for these imports in gold and silver currency, leading to a significant influx of Roman coins.

156. (B) Gandhara

The unique 'bent-bar' coins are a distinctive form of early punch-marked currency associated with the Gandhara Janapada in North-Western India. These coins were made by punching two symbols, often a six-armed wheel, onto the ends of a heavy silver bar, causing it to bend. This regional type predates the more common five-symbol punch-marked coins of the Mauryan period and reflects the diverse and localized origins of the first standardized metallic currency systems developed within the Indian subcontinent.

157. (C) The use of a very diverse pantheon of deities on the reverse.

Under rulers like Kanishka I and Huvishka, Kushana coinage reached its most syncretic phase, featuring a remarkable variety of deities on the reverse. These figures represented Greek gods like Helios and Selene, Iranian gods like Mithra and Nana, and Indian gods like Siva and Skanda-Kumara. This inclusive religious imagery was a deliberate administrative policy to gain legitimacy and foster unity among the diverse ethnic and cultural groups living within the

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114. (A) Iconography

Iconography in numismatics is the study and interpretation of the visual images, symbols, and motifs depicted on coins. The frequent appearance of animals like the horse on Ashvamedha coins or the peacock on Kartikeya types provides deep insight into the religious beliefs, royal rituals, and cultural values of the period. By analyzing these artistic representations, historians can identify the deities favored by rulers and understand the symbolic language used by ancient states to communicate power, legitimacy, and divine favor.

115. (C) Billon

Billon is an alloy primarily composed of copper with a smaller, varying percentage of silver. This material was frequently used for minting lower-denomination coins or as a substitute for pure silver during times of economic hardship and precious metal shortages. In the context of Indian history, billon became common during the early medieval period, particularly in the Indo-Sassanian and Gadhaiya series. The use of billon reflects the practical fiscal adjustments made by states to manage the supply of circulating currency.

116. (D) Kanishka I

Under the reign of Kanishka I, Kushana coinage underwent a significant linguistic and scriptural shift. While earlier rulers primarily used the Greek language and script, Kanishka introduced a modified Greek script to write the native Bactrian language. This change is visible in the transition of coin legends from Greek titles like 'Basileus' to the Bactrian 'Shaonanoshao' (King of Kings). This move highlighted the dynasty's effort to formalize their own cultural identity while maintaining the prestigious Hellenistic tradition of coinage.

117. (C) usually made of lead and feature bilingual legends.

The portrait coins of the Satavahanas, issued by prominent rulers like Vasisthiputra Pulumavi, represent a rare and unique series in South Indian numismatics. These coins were predominantly made of lead, rather than the silver typically used for portraiture in the North. Most significantly, they featured bilingual legends, with Prakrit in the Brahmi script on one side and a local Dravidian language, often identified as old Tamil or Telugu, on the other. This reflects the multicultural nature of their southern territories.

118. (B) They maintained high gold purity throughout the Gupta period without any debasement.

Gupta gold coins, or Dinaras, are famous for their initial high purity and exquisite artistic detail. However, it is a historical fact that the quality and gold content of these coins declined significantly in the later stages of the dynasty. Rulers like Skandagupta and his successors were forced to debase the currency, adding more base metal to the alloy due to economic strain from persistent Huna invasions and internal instability. Thus, the purity of Gupta gold was not consistent throughout their rule.

119. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The absence of a specific dynasty's coinage in the archaeological record does not automatically imply economic poverty. History shows that many prosperous societies relied on alternative systems of exchange, such as barter, or used the stable currencies of neighboring powers or preceding empires. Furthermore, commodities like cowrie shells often served as small-change currency. Therefore, numismatic evidence must be carefully integrated with other archaeological and literary data to form a complete picture of an ancient economy's vitality and complexity.

120. (A) Early Medieval Indian coinage.

The coinage of the Kalachuris of Tripuri belongs to the early medieval period of Indian history. Their issues are characterized by the adoption of the 'seated goddess' motif, a design that provided artistic and economic continuity following the Gupta era. The use of the Nagari script for legends is another hallmark of early medieval coins. This series demonstrates how regional dynasties maintained the monetary traditions of the past while adapting them to the political and linguistic realities of their own time.

121. (C) They offer vital evidence for various local states and autonomous groups often omitted in literature.

Janapada and tribal coins are indispensable for reconstructing the history of ancient India

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the North-Western frontier regions of the Indian subcontinent.

165. (C) Kartikeya (Skanda)

The Yaudheyas, a prominent martial tribal republic, frequently featured the deity Kartikeya on their coinage. As the god of war and the commander of the divine army, Kartikeya was the natural patron of this warrior community. He is typically depicted on their copper coins holding a long spear or 'sakti'. The choice of this deity, combined with the legend 'Victory of the Yaudheya Republic', served as a powerful statement of the tribe's religious identity and their collective military strength and autonomy.

166. (B) The style and form of the script used in the coin's legend.

In numismatics, the study of 'palaeography' involves the detailed analysis of the scripts found in coin legends. By examining how individual letters and characters were shaped and how they evolved over time, experts can more accurately date coins and identify the regional workshops where they were produced. This linguistic analysis is essential for deciphering the names, titles, and genealogies of rulers, especially in multicultural regions where multiple scripts like Brahmi, Kharoshthi, and Greek were used simultaneously or sequentially.

167. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

During the Gupta period, the monetary system was well-organized with distinct names for different denominations. The prestigious gold coins, modeled after the Kushana standard, were officially called 'Dinaras'. The silver coins, which were introduced primarily for the western provinces after the conquest of the Sakas, were known as 'Rupakas'. These terms are verified by both contemporary literary texts and epigraphic records, reflecting a sophisticated and tiered economy that utilized different metals for various scales of commercial and administrative transactions.

168. (A) Shahis of Kabul

The Bull and Horseman coin type was a highly successful and long-lived numismatic design first introduced by the Shahi kings of Kabul and Punjab. It features a recumbent bull on one side and a mounted warrior with a lance on the other. Due to its popularity and stability as a currency, this type was subsequently adopted and modified by numerous early medieval North Indian dynasties, including various Rajput clans. It represents a remarkable example of numismatic continuity across different political and cultural eras.

169. (C) the concept of issuing coins with the name and individualized portrait of the ruler.

The most enduring contribution of the Indo-Greeks to Indian numismatics was the shift from aniconic, symbolic coinage to the use of realistic royal portraits and official names. Before their arrival, Indian coins like the punch-marked series were entirely anonymous. The Hellenistic tradition of featuring the sovereign's likeness and titles on currency provided a new way for rulers to assert their identity and authority. This practice was adopted by nearly all subsequent major Indian dynasties, transforming coins into vital historical and biographical records.

170. (D) All of the above

Coins are an invaluable primary source for historians because they offer a wealth of information across multiple dimensions. They help reconstruct genealogies and regnal years, while their discovery locations reveal the extent of an empire's influence. The symbols and deities depicted on them provide direct evidence of religious shifts, and the metallic purity reflects the state's economic health. Furthermore, the detailed legends preserve the titles and specific achievements of rulers, providing a level of factual detail often missing from other ancient records.

171. (D) 'terminus post quem' (date after which) for the burial of the hoard.

In the analysis of a coin hoard, the most recent coin identifies the 'terminus post quem', which is the earliest possible date that the hoard could have been buried. Since a hoard cannot be hidden before its latest coin was minted, this provides a vital chronological limit for historians. This information is often used to link the burial of treasure to specific events such as wars, invasions, or periods of social unrest, helping

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to contextualize the coins within the broader political history of a region.

172. (B) Satavahanas

The silver portrait coins of certain Satavahana rulers, such as Vasisthiputra Pulumavi, are unique for their bilingual and bi-scriptual legends. They feature a Prakrit inscription in the Brahmi script on the obverse and a local Dravidian language, often identified as ancient Tamil or Telugu, in a modified script on the reverse. This practice highlights the dynasty's effort to communicate with the diverse populations of their vast empire, which spanned from the Northern Deccan to the deep Southern regions of the Indian peninsula.

173. (C) Punch-marking

Punch-marking is an indigenous Indian minting technique where several individual symbols are struck onto a metal blank using separate punches. Each punch carries a single motif, such as the sun, an animal, or a geometric pattern. Unlike die-striking, where a single die creates the entire design, punch-marking results in a cluster of distinct symbols that can sometimes overlap. This method was used to produce India's earliest standardized currency, serving as a hallmark of the monetary system during the Mahajanapada and Mauryan eras.

174. (D) Ship type

The Gupta dynasty issued an extraordinary variety of gold coin types, including the archer, lyrist, and Ashvamedha types, each celebrating different aspects of royal power and culture. However, the ship type is not a part of the Gupta numismatic repertoire. Instead, the ship motif is a characteristic feature of Satavahana coinage, representing their maritime influence and trade connections. The Guptas focused more on themes of martial prowess, religious devotion, and personal artistic skill in their prestigious gold dinara issues throughout their rule.

175. (A) Mahajanapada period, around the 6th century BCE.

The origin of standardized coinage in India is generally traced to the 6th century BCE, coinciding with the rise of the Mahajanapadas and the growth of urban centers. These earliest coins were the silver punch-marked issues, which replaced earlier forms of exchange like barter or the use of metal bullion. This indigenous development reflected the increasing complexity of the Indian economy and the need for a reliable medium of exchange to support expanding trade networks and state administrations during the late Vedic and early historical periods.

176. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Roman coins found in India do not indicate Roman political rule; rather, they are archaeological evidence of intense maritime commerce. These gold and silver coins arrived in South India as payment for valuable Indian exports like pepper and spices. Within the Indian context, they were treated as precious metal bullion or high-value commodities rather than being issued as official local legal tender. Many of these coins have been found with 'slashes', suggesting they were demonetized and kept primarily for their intrinsic metallic value.

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177. (B) Hunas

The decline in the artistic quality and gold purity of later Gupta coinage is a direct numismatic reflection of the empire's political and economic decay. This stagnation was largely triggered by the devastating and prolonged invasions of the Hunas from Central Asia. The constant warfare drained the royal treasury, forcing later Gupta rulers to debase their currency by increasing its base metal content. These crude, lower-quality issues symbolize the end of the Gupta Golden Age and the onset of a more fragmented and economically stressed period.

178. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Understanding numismatic terminology is essential for the systematic study of ancient coins. The 'obverse' is the principal or 'heads' side, while the 'reverse' is the secondary or 'tails' side. The 'legend' refers to the written inscription, which provides the name and titles of the issuer. Finally, 'metrology' is the study of the weight and measurement standards of the coins. Together, these elements allow historians to analyze the political, linguistic, and economic significance of currency across various dynasties and historical periods.

179. (C) Sassanian (Persian)

A coin depicting a royal bust on the obverse and a fire altar on the reverse is a classic characteristic of Sassanian coinage from ancient Persia. This specific combination of motifs was highly influential in North-Western and Western India, where it was adopted and modified by several regional dynasties following the decline of the Kushanas. The persistence of the fire altar motif, even in stylized and debased forms like the Gadhaiya coins, highlights the deep and enduring cultural and economic links between the Indian subcontinent and the Persian world.

180. (D) materials used, including lead, potin, copper, and silver.

Satavahana coinage is particularly notable for its exceptional diversity in metallic composition. While many other dynasties focused on a single precious metal, the Satavahanas utilized lead, potin (a copper-based alloy), and copper for the majority of their regional currency. They also issued silver portrait coins for certain high-level or western issues. This wide range of materials reflects the dynasty's pragmatic approach to meeting the economic needs of the varied and geographically extensive territories under their control in the Deccan and Southern India.

181. (C) Cultural syncretism

The inclusion of Greek deities like Helios, Iranian deities like Mithra, and Indian deities like Siva on Kushana coinage is a profound example of cultural syncretism. By representing the diverse religious traditions of their vast empire, the Kushana rulers demonstrated their role as cosmopolitan monarchs who sought to unify their multicultural subjects. This deliberate administrative strategy helped legitimize their authority across different ethnic and religious boundaries, making their coinage a visual representation of the inclusive and tolerant nature of the Kushana imperial state.

182. (B) Western Kshatrapas

The Western Kshatrapas issued a remarkably consistent and long-running series of silver coins that are highly valued by historians. These issues feature a realistic bust of the reigning king on the obverse and a distinctive legend that includes the names of both the ruler and his father. Most importantly, they contain precise dates in the Saka era. This unique combination of genealogical and chronological detail makes their silver currency one of the most reliable primary sources for reconstructing the history of Western India over several centuries.

183. (C) 1, 2 and 3

Punch-marked coins represent the earliest phase of Indian metallic currency, appearing around the 6th century BCE. They were primarily made of silver and are identified by several distinct symbols punched onto their surface, such as the sun, a hill, or a six-armed wheel. However, they were aniconic and did not feature royal names or portraits in any script. These coins served as the standard medium of exchange across the various Mahajanapadas and the subsequent Mauryan Empire before the introduction of die-struck coinage.

184. (A) Early Medieval

The 'dramma' was a significant coin denomination that became prevalent in Northern and Western India during the early medieval period. Derived from the Greek 'drachma', the term was adopted by various regional dynasties such as the Gurjara-Pratiharas and the Chahamanas. Drammas were often made of silver or debased silver and were mentioned frequently in contemporary inscriptions and literary texts. Their widespread use reflects the continued influence of Hellenistic and Sassanian monetary traditions on the regional economies of India following the fall of the Gupta Empire.

185. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Indo-Greek kings introduced the tradition of realistic royal portraiture to the Indian subcontinent. This was a direct continuation of the Hellenistic artistic style, where coins served as a prestigious medium for depicting the lifelike features of the sovereign. Before this influence, Indian coinage was entirely symbolic. The introduction of these individualised portraits transformed numismatics in the region, providing subsequent historians with a visual record of the kings and setting a new standard for royal self-representation that was followed for centuries.

186. (A) Sakas (Western Kshatrapas) in the west.

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Gupta gold coinage represents an artistic peak in Indian numismatics, characterized by refined imagery and elegant craftsmanship. These coins intentionally moved away from the Graeco-Roman and Iranian styles of the preceding Kushana dynasty, adopting distinctly Indian aesthetics and classical Sanskrit legends. By depicting the king in various culturally significant roles, such as a musician or a hunter, the Guptas used their currency to project a sophisticated image of royalty that reflected the broader cultural and intellectual renaissance of the Golden Age in Indian history.

214. (B) regions and polities outside the major imperial systems.

The coins of autonomous tribal republics like the Audumbaras, Kunindas, and Yaudheyas are essential historical sources because they document the existence of communities that thrived outside the control of major empires. These coins provide evidence for local political structures, religious preferences, and regional economic activity that are often overlooked in centralized literary texts. By studying these issues, historians can reconstruct a more diverse and decentralized picture of ancient India, highlighting the survival of republican and tribal identities amidst the rise of large monarchical states.

215. (D) Gupta

The 'seated goddess' motif, featuring a female deity, typically Lakshmi, seated on a throne or a lotus, was a central feature of Gupta gold coinage. Due to the immense prestige and widespread acceptance of Gupta currency, this specific design was frequently imitated by various early medieval North Indian dynasties, such as the Kalachuris and Chandellas. This continuity in numismatic art allowed new regional rulers to maintain a sense of economic legitimacy and traditional authority, ensuring that their currency remained trusted by merchants and the general populace.

216. (D) All of the above

Alloys like billon and potin played a crucial role in ancient Indian monetary systems. They were used to create more durable coins that could withstand the wear of circulation better than pure soft metals. Additionally, the use of alloys allowed states to manage their supply of precious metals, especially during times of economic hardship or trade deficits. By adjusting the proportion of silver or gold in the alloy, rulers could increase the volume of currency available for administration, commerce, and the payment of state expenses.

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217. (C) Indo-Greeks

The transition from aniconic, symbol-based punch-marked coins to currency featuring realistic royal portraits was a major technological and cultural shift introduced to India by the Indo-Greeks. This Hellenistic tradition transformed the coin into a historical document that recorded the actual likeness and titles of the sovereign. This innovation established a new model for political communication and royal self-representation that was subsequently adopted by many other major dynasties, including the Sakas, Kushanas, and the Gupta Empire, permanently changing the nature of Indian numismatics.

218. (A) Early Roman Empire (1st-2nd centuries CE).

The vast majority of Roman gold and silver coins discovered in the Indian subcontinent belong to the period of the Early Roman Empire, particularly during the reigns of Augustus and his immediate successors. This concentration reflects the peak of the direct maritime trade network between Roman Egypt and the ports of South India. The high demand for Indian luxury goods during this prosperous era in Roman history led to a massive outflow of precious metal currency, which remains one of the clearest archaeological indicators of ancient global trade.

219. (D) Guptas

The 'Horseman' type, showing the emperor riding a caparisoned horse and sometimes wielding a weapon, was a popular and prestigious gold coin motif used by several Gupta rulers, including Chandragupta II and Kumaragupta I. This imagery emphasized the king's martial skill and his role as a powerful protector of the empire. These coins are noted for their artistic detail and technical mastery, serving as a testament to the high cultural and economic standards of the Gupta period and the symbolic importance of the horse in royal ideology.

reliable and valuable primary sources for ancient Indian chronology.

193. (B) Debased gold, silver, and copper

The coinage of the Chandellas, like that of many other Rajput dynasties of the early medieval period, utilized a variety of metals, including debased gold, silver, and copper. As political fragmentation and economic shifts occurred, the purity of precious metal currency often declined compared to the earlier imperial standards. Chandella coins typically featured a seated goddess on the reverse and the king's name in Nagari script on the obverse. This variety in materials reflects the regional economic conditions and the fluctuating financial resources of these medieval principalities.

194. (C) 1, 2 and 3

Ancient Indian mints sourced their metals from a combination of local mines and international trade. Silver for early punch-marked coins likely came from deposits in Rajasthan or Afghanistan. The Kushanas obtained vast amounts of gold through their control of the Silk Road and favorable trade with the Roman Empire. The Satavahanas utilized locally abundant metals like lead from the Deccan region. These diverse sources demonstrate that ancient Indian economies were deeply integrated into both regional and global networks of resource extraction and commodity exchange.

195. (C) Sassanian-inspired bust and fire-altar coins.

The 'Gadhaiya paisa' is a distinctive type of early medieval currency found extensively in Western India. These coins represent a crude and highly stylized degeneration of earlier Sassanian prototypes, which featured a royal bust and a fire altar. Over centuries of local imitation, these original motifs were simplified into abstract patterns, resulting in the characteristic donkey (gadhaiya) shape that gave the coins their popular name. This series reflects the persistence of certain monetary types during a period of significant regionalization and economic transition.

196. (D) Samudragupta

The prestigious title 'Apratiratha', meaning an invincible warrior or one who has no equal in battle, is found on certain gold coins of the Gupta emperor Samudragupta. This legend, typically appearing on his Standard Type coins, serves as a numismatic proclamation of his military supremacy and widespread conquests. Such coins were used as powerful propaganda to project the image of a divinely favored and unconquerable sovereign, reflecting the martial ideology that underpinned the initial expansion and consolidation of the vast Gupta Empire.

197. (C) ensuring they could be understood by a multicultural populace.

The use of bilingual and bi-scriptual legends on coins was a pragmatic administrative strategy employed by various ancient Indian dynasties, including the Indo-Greeks and some Satavahana rulers. By including inscriptions in both an elite language like Greek or Prakrit and a local script like Kharoshthi or a Dravidian language, the authorities ensured that the currency was universally recognized and accepted across their diverse territories. This inclusive approach facilitated regional commerce and demonstrated the state's recognition of the multicultural and linguistic diversity within its borders.

198. (B) creating a design in relief by hammering from the reverse side.

Repoussé is a specialized metalworking technique occasionally used in the production of high-value objects and some specific types of early coins or plaques. It involves hammering a thin sheet of metal from the back to create a raised design in relief on the front. While not the standard method for common circulating currency, which relied more on casting or die-striking, the repoussé technique demonstrates the advanced artistic and metallurgical skills available in ancient Indian workshops for creating decorative and prestigious items.

199. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

After the collapse of the Gupta Empire, Northern India experienced a significant decline in the quantity and artistic quality of its coinage. This numismatic stagnation was primarily caused by the political instability that followed the Huna invasions and the rise of smaller regional powers. These conditions disrupted long-

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maintained the weight, size, and general bust-type style of the Saka coins. This was a pragmatic administrative decision to ensure that the new currency would be trusted and accepted by local merchants who were already accustomed to the existing monetary standards of Western India.

227. (C) divine kingship, possibly influenced by Chinese and Roman traditions.

The title 'Devaputra', meaning Son of God, found on Kushana coinage reflects their claim to divine status and high imperial authority. This concept of kingship was likely influenced by similar ideologies found in the Chinese (Son of Heaven) and Roman (Divi filius) empires. By featuring such titles on their coins, the Kushana rulers projected a powerful image of themselves as divinely sanctioned monarchs who stood above ordinary mortals, a claim that helped legitimize their rule over a vast and diverse multicultural population.

228. (D) The Early Medieval Period

Terminology such as 'dramma' and 'vimsopaka' refers to specific coin denominations that were common during the early medieval period in India. The dramma was a standard silver or debased silver coin used by various regional dynasties, while the vimsopaka represented a smaller fractional unit, often identified as a twentieth of a larger denomination. These names appear frequently in contemporary epigraphic records and literary texts, providing historians with essential information about the tiered monetary systems and economic practices that existed in the centuries following the fall of the Gupta Empire.

229. (B) 1, 2 and 3

Ancient Indian numismatic history is defined by three primary manufacturing techniques. Punch-marking was the indigenous method for creating symbol-based currency. Casting in moulds allowed for the efficient mass production of common copper coins. Die-striking, brought to India by the Indo-Greeks, introduced more complex, two-sided designs including realistic portraits. However, it is incorrect to say the Indo-Greeks introduced punch-marking; that technique was already a well-established indigenous tradition in India for centuries before their arrival, serving as the foundational monetary system of the pre-Mauryan and Mauryan eras.

230. (B) the king receiving prasada from the god Vishnu.

The Chakravikrama type is one of the most remarkable and unique gold coins issued by Chandragupta II. The obverse depicts a rare religious scene where the emperor is shown standing and receiving three balls of prasada (divine grace) from a personified figure of the god Vishnu, who is identifiable by his large chakra or wheel. This imagery explicitly emphasizes the king's devotion to Vishnu and his claim to rule by divine sanction, highlighting the deep intersection of religion and politics during the height of the Gupta Empire.

231. (D) map the extent of their political influence and commercial reach.

The distribution of Satavahana coins across various regions of the Deccan and Southern India is a vital archaeological tool for historians. By identifying where these coins were in circulation, researchers can delineate the boundaries of the dynasty's political authority and their commercial influence. The presence of their coins in diverse coastal and inland sites confirms their role in facilitating trade between different parts of the subcontinent and their integration into wider maritime networks, providing a spatial record of their power that complements the historical texts.

232. (A) Janapada and Tribal coinage.

The early territorial states and autonomous republics that predated or existed alongside the Mauryan Empire are collectively known as the issuers of Janapada and Tribal coinage. These coins, primarily punch-marked silver and copper issues, represent the first stage of standardized money in India. Each community used its own set of symbols to assert its local identity and authority. These numismatic finds are essential for understanding the fragmented but economically vibrant political landscape of ancient India during the pre-imperial and early imperial phases of its history.

233. (C) economic crisis faced by the empire, likely due to Huna wars.

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The coinage of the Satavahana dynasty is uniquely identified by its use of base metals like lead and potin, along with Prakrit legends and a variety of regional symbols. Motifs like the elephant, lion, and the characteristic two-masted ship are hallmarks of their currency. Furthermore, the persistent presence of the Ujjain symbol on the reverse of their diverse issues provides a diagnostic marker for historians. These coins reflect the dynasty's control over the Deccan and their involvement in both regional and overseas maritime trade networks.

207. (A) The deity Kartikeya with a spear and the legend 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya'.

The coinage of the Yaudheya tribe is distinguished by its celebration of their martial and republican identity. Most of their copper coins prominently feature the war-god Kartikeya holding a spear, symbolizing the tribe's military strength. The legend 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya' (Victory of the Yaudheya Republic) explicitly confirms their non-monarchical form of government. These numismatic features are primary evidence for the history and collective spirit of this independent tribal community, which maintained its autonomy in the region of modern Haryana and Rajasthan.

208. (B) holding a standard (banner) and making an offering at an altar.

The Standard type gold coin of Samudragupta is his most common issue and depicts the emperor in a formal, martial pose. He is shown standing, holding a tall standard or banner in his left hand, while his right hand makes an offering at a small fire altar. This imagery projects a powerful image of the king as a divinely sanctioned warrior and a pious ruler. This specific design became a foundational type for Gupta numismatics, being widely imitated and modified by his imperial successors.

209. (B) a scarcity of coinage in circulation, especially in certain regions of North India.

The coin famine is a term used by historians to describe a period in early medieval India when the supply of metallic currency significantly decreased. This phenomenon, particularly evident in Northern India between the 7th and 10th centuries CE, followed the decline of the centralized Gupta Empire. Political fragmentation and the disruption of long-distance trade routes led to a reduced availability of precious metals. Consequently, many regions reverted to more localized economies or used alternative mediums of exchange like barter and cowrie shells.

210. (A) impressing several individual symbols onto a metal sheet using separate punches.

The manufacturing of punch-marked coins was a unique process where several distinct symbols were struck onto a metal blank using individual, separate punches. Each punch carried a single motif, such as the sun, an animal, or a geometric pattern. Unlike later techniques that used a single die for the entire design, this method resulted in an irregular cluster of motifs on the coin's surface. This indigenous technique was the standard for Indian currency for several centuries during the early historical and Mauryan periods.

211. (C) Chandragupta II's silver coins imitating Kshatrapa types.

The conquest of the Western Kshatrapas by the Gupta Empire is numismatically documented through the silver coinage of Chandragupta II. By issuing silver 'rupakas' that directly imitated the weight and style of the defeated enemy's coins, Chandragupta II provided clear archaeological proof of his victory and the annexation of the western territories. These coins, which replaced Saka symbols with Gupta ones like the Garuda, serve as a critical historical marker for the end of Saka rule and the expansion of the Gupta Empire to the western coast.

212. (D) a mixture of two or more metals.

In numismatics, an 'alloy' refers to a metallic substance created by mixing two or more different metals. This process was commonly used in ancient mints to improve the durability of coins, adjust their intrinsic value, or economize on precious metals like gold and silver. For example, 'potin' and 'billon' are common alloys used in ancient Indian coinage. The study of these alloys provides historians with vital information about the metallurgical skills, mining resources, and overall economic health of different ancient and medieval dynasties.

213. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

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The introduction of silver coinage into the Gupta numismatic system was a direct result of Chandragupta II's military victory over the Sakas, also known as the Western Kshatrapas. Since the conquered regions of Malwa and Gujarat were accustomed to a silver-based economy, the Guptas issued silver 'rupakas' that mimicked the Saka style and weight standard. These coins symbolized the expansion of the Gupta Empire to the western sea coast and the successful integration of newly annexed territories into the imperial administrative and economic framework.

187. (D) delineate the sphere of influence of the issuing power.

Mapping the geographical distribution of specific coin types is a vital tool for historians. By identifying the locations where a particular currency is commonly found, researchers can estimate the boundaries of a kingdom's political authority and the extent of its commercial reach. Large concentrations of coins in distant regions may also indicate the path of trade routes or the movement of armies. Therefore, the spatial analysis of numismatic finds provides a tangible record of a dynasty's influence that often complements or corrects written historical accounts.

188. (B) Coins issued by various early local kingdoms and republics before the Mauryan consolidation.

Janapada coins refer to the diverse and early forms of punch-marked currency issued by the numerous territorial states and tribal republics that existed in Northern India before the rise of the Mauryan Empire. Each Janapada, such as Magadha, Kashi, or Gandhara, developed its own unique set of symbols and weight standards. These coins represent the first stage of standardized metallic currency in India and provide critical evidence for the political and economic autonomy of these local states during the 6th to 4th centuries BCE.

189. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Kushana coinage shows a clear evolution in its early stages. Kujula Kadphises, the founder of the dynasty, primarily issued copper coins that were imitations of earlier Indo-Greek and Roman types to establish economic credibility. It was his successor, Vima Kadphises, who revolutionized the monetary system by introducing a large-scale and high-quality gold currency. This shift reflected the increasing wealth of the Kushanas and their strategic control over the Silk Road trade, setting the standard for the prestigious gold coinage of later Kushana and Gupta rulers.

190. (D) Guptas

The 'Archer' type gold coin, depicting the king holding a bow and an arrow, became the most common and standardized currency of the Gupta Empire. While first introduced by Samudragupta, it was widely issued by nearly all subsequent Gupta rulers, including Chandragupta II and Kumaragupta I. The enduring popularity of this type reflects its symbolic association with martial prowess and royal authority. For numismatists, the Archer type remains the diagnostic hallmark of the Gupta dynasty's extensive and artistically refined gold coinage.

191. (A) Copper

The vast majority of uninscribed cast coins discovered in ancient India were made of copper. This base metal was relatively abundant and highly suitable for mass-producing low-denomination currency intended for everyday, local market transactions. These coins, created by pouring molten metal into moulds, often featured simple symbolic motifs but lacked written legends. Their prevalence alongside high-value silver punch-marked coins suggests a well-developed, multi-tiered monetary system where copper served as the essential small-change currency for the common people across various regions.

192. (B) The date in the Saka era.

The presence of dates recorded in the Saka era is the most significant feature of Western Kshatrapa silver coinage. By inscribing the specific year of issue on the reverse, these rulers provided a precise and continuous chronological record that spans over three centuries. This exceptional numismatic practice allows historians to date individual reigns, track the succession of kings, and correlate political events in Western India with broader historical developments. Consequently, these coins are among the most

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220. (B) mass-produce low-value copper currency quickly and cheaply.

The casting technique was primarily utilized in ancient India to efficiently produce large quantities of low-denomination copper coins. By pouring molten metal into multi-socketed clay or terracotta moulds, mints could create many coins simultaneously at a low cost. While these cast coins lacked the sharpness and detail of die-struck issues, they were perfectly suited for the needs of local markets and everyday small-value transactions. This method provided a practical solution for providing the common people with a standardized medium of exchange for basic commerce.

221. (A) 3, 2, 4, 1

The appearance of languages and names on Indian coins follows a specific chronological sequence. It began with the indigenous punch-marked coins which were entirely anonymous, carrying no king's name. The Indo-Greeks then introduced names in the Greek language in the 2nd century BCE. Later, dynasties like the Satavahanas used the Prakrit language for their legends. Finally, the Gupta Empire popularized the use of classical Sanskrit for their elaborate imperial titles and legends from the 4th century CE onwards, reflecting the linguistic shifts in administrative history.

222. (D) a deliberate alternative to the more common round shape.

While many ancient Indian coins were round, the square or rectangular shape of various cast copper and tribal issues was a deliberate and common alternative. This shape often originated from the practice of cutting metal sheets into rectangular flans before striking or casting them. Square coins are found across various periods and dynasties, including the Indo-Greeks and the Satavahanas. Far from being a mistake, the square shape was a standardized and accepted form for currency that persisted alongside circular issues in many regional and local economies.

223. (A) To facilitate international trade along the Silk Road where Roman currency was a known standard.

The Kushanas adopted a gold weight standard nearly identical to the Roman aureus as a strategic economic decision. By aligning their currency with the primary international trade standard of the time, the Kushanas ensured that their gold coins were easily accepted and valued by foreign merchants along the Silk Road. This facilitated large-scale commerce between the Roman Empire, Central Asia, and India, allowing the Kushanas to leverage their position as major intermediaries in global trade and maintain a prestigious and stable imperial economy.

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224. (B) Multiple, separate symbols impressed on the surface.

A defining feature of punch-marked coinage is the presence of several distinct symbols, each struck onto the metal blank using an individual punch. These symbols, such as the sun, a six-armed wheel, or an animal, were often placed in a specific cluster that served as a mark of authority, quality, or mint origin. Unlike later die-struck coins that featured a single unified design, punch-marked issues have an irregular, symbolic appearance that remained the hallmark of indigenous Indian currency for several centuries across many regions.

225. (B) The personal thoughts and diary entries of a king.

Numismatics is a powerful historical tool for analyzing state-level information such as language, script, economic prosperity, and trade networks. However, coins are public administrative and propaganda items, and as such, they are entirely unsuitable for providing intimate personal data like a ruler's private thoughts or diary entries. While coin legends may record official achievements and titles, they reflect the idealized image of royalty rather than the subjective inner life of the individual monarch, which is typically found in personal memoirs or letters.

226. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The silver coinage of the Gupta dynasty was not an original indigenous design; rather, it was closely modeled after the silver issues of the Western Kshatrapas. Following Chandragupta II's conquest of the western regions, the Guptas issued silver 'rupakas' that intentionally

distance maritime and overland trade networks, which had previously ensured a steady supply of precious metals. Consequently, the fragmented states had fewer resources to maintain the high standards of currency seen during the preceding imperial era.

200. (C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Ancient Indian dynasties are uniquely identified by their characteristic numismatic features. The Satavahanas were notable for their predominant use of lead for regional coinage. The Indo-Greeks were the first to introduce realistic royal portraits to the subcontinent. The Western Kshatrapas consistently recorded dates from the Saka era on their silver issues. Finally, the Gupta dynasty is most famous for its sophisticated 'Archer' type gold coins, which served as a symbol of their imperial prestige and cultural refinement across their vast empire.

201. (C) The religious tolerance and multicultural environment of the Kushana empire.

The coinage of Kanishka I is a remarkable historical document illustrating the religious syncretism of the Kushana Empire. By featuring a diverse array of deities from Greek, Iranian, and Indian traditions on his currency, Kanishka demonstrated a policy of official tolerance and cultural inclusion. This pragmatic administrative approach helped unify the different ethnic groups under his rule, from Central Asian nomads to Indian city-dwellers. The coins reflect a cosmopolitan society where multiple faiths coexisted peacefully under the protection of a powerful and inclusive imperial authority.

202. (A) political conquest and administrative continuity.

The silver coins of Chandragupta II, which imitated the established Saka-Kshatrapa types, provide clear evidence of both political conquest and administrative pragmatism. By defeating the Sakas and then issuing silver coins that maintained the local weight and style, the Guptas ensured economic stability in the newly annexed western provinces. This continuity allowed merchants and the public to continue their commercial activities without disruption, while the replacement of Saka symbols with Gupta ones, like the Garuda, signaled the permanent shift in sovereign power.

203. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

The earliest indigenous Indian coins, the punch-marked series, were entirely aniconic and did not feature any individualized royal portraits, relying instead on a system of symbolic motifs. The tradition of issuing coins with realistic and identifiable likenesses of rulers was introduced to India by the Indo-Greeks in the 2nd century BCE. This Hellenistic innovation permanently transformed the nature of Indian numismatics, leading subsequent dynasties to use coins as biographical and political tools for royal self-representation and the projection of imperial authority.

204. (B) a combination of dynastic, official, and mint marks.

The diverse symbols found on punch-marked coins, such as the sun, a hill, or a fish, were not random decorations but a sophisticated system of administrative identification. These marks likely represented the authority of the issuing state, the specific mint responsible for production, and the officials or guilds who guaranteed the coin's weight and purity. This symbolic language allowed for the regulation of currency across the vast territories of the Mahajanapadas and the Mauryan Empire, ensuring trust and standardized value in a largely pre-literate economic environment.

205. (C) Rome paid for Indian goods like spices and textiles in precious metal.

The abundance of Roman coins in South India and the corresponding lack of Indian coins in the Roman world confirms a significant trade imbalance. Rome had a high demand for Indian luxury goods such as black pepper, spices, muslins, and gemstones. Since the Romans had few manufactured goods or commodities that appealed to Indian merchants, they were forced to pay for their imports using large quantities of gold and silver currency. This economic reality turned South Indian ports into massive recipients of Roman precious metal bullion during the early centuries CE.

206. (D) Satavahanas

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The significant debasement of Skandagupta's gold coins, where the percentage of gold was reduced in favor of base metals, is a clear numismatic indicator of a deep economic crisis. Historians attribute this fiscal decline to the immense financial strain caused by the prolonged and costly wars against the Huna invaders. The need to pay large armies and maintain defenses drained the imperial treasury, forcing the later Gupta rulers to lower the standards of their prestigious gold dinaras, signaling the end of the dynasty's period of greatest prosperity.

234. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Key numismatic innovations in India can be traced back to specific dynasties. The Indo-Greeks were the first to introduce realistic royal portraits. The Western Kshatrapas pioneered the consistent use of dates on coins. The Kushanas were the first to issue gold currency on a truly large and standardized scale. Finally, the Gupta dynasty refined these traditions by introducing elaborate Sanskrit legends on their artistic gold coins. These technological and stylistic shifts mark the evolution of Indian coinage from simple symbolic pieces to sophisticated historical and administrative documents.

235. (D) a long process of typological degeneration from an earlier prototype.

The 'Gadhaiya' coins of early medieval India are a fascinating example of how a coin's design can evolve and simplify over many centuries. Originally derived from the realistic bust-and-fire-altar types of the Sassanian Empire, these motifs were repeatedly copied by local mints that lacked the original artistic context. Over time, the designs became increasingly abstract and crude, transforming into the stylized patterns seen on the common Gadhaiya issues. This process of typological degeneration reflects the long-term persistence of certain monetary traditions despite significant political and artistic changes.

236. (B) Satavahanas

The Satavahana dynasty used a diverse range of symbols on their coinage to represent their authority and interests. Common motifs included animals like the lion and elephant, as well as geographic or religious symbols like the three-arched hill and the Ujjain symbol. Most famously, they issued coins featuring a two-masted ship, which highlighted their significant maritime power and involvement in overseas trade. These symbols served as a visual language to communicate the dynasty's strength and regional identity across the vast territories of the Deccan and Southern India.

237. (C) Kushanas

The depiction of the 'Bactrian camel' on certain Kushana coins is a unique and significant motif that points to the dynasty's Central Asian roots. The two-humped camel was a primary animal used for transport along the Silk Road, which the Kushanas controlled and benefited from. By featuring this animal on their copper currency, the Kushana rulers acknowledged their ancestral homeland and the critical role of overland trade in their imperial economy. This motif remains a rare but important numismatic indicator of the dynasty's origins and their enduring links to the regions of Inner Asia.

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238. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Coins are often the most reliable source for reconstructing the political history of the Indo-Greeks because they provide data that is entirely missing from literary records. While ancient texts mention only a few prominent Greek kings like Menander, numismatic evidence has revealed the names and titles of nearly forty different rulers. These coins allow historians to identify individual sovereigns, trace their territorial reach, and understand the complex succession and division of power within these Hellenistic kingdoms, making them indispensable for any detailed study of this period.

239. (A) a pantheon of Greek and Iranian gods to a predominance of the Indian god Siva.

The gradual Indianization of the Kushana dynasty is most clearly visible in the shifting religious imagery of their coinage. While early rulers like Kanishka featured an extremely diverse mix of Greek and Iranian deities, the issues of later monarchs like Vasudeva I moved toward a nearly exclusive representation of the Indian god Siva and his bull, Nandi. This transition reflects how the Kushanas, who originally arrived as foreign conquerors from Central Asia, became deeply

integrated into the indigenous religious and cultural fabric of the Indian subcontinent over several generations of rule.

240. (B) an engraved stamp used to impress a design onto the coin blank.

In the process of die-striking, a 'die' is a specialized, hardened metal stamp that has been engraved with the intended coin design in reverse. Two dies—the obverse and the reverse—are used to strike a prepared metal flan between them. This technique, introduced to India by the Indo-Greeks, allowed for the consistent production of coins with sharp details and complex designs on both sides. The quality of the dies determined the artistic merit and technical uniformity of the currency, making them critical tools in any ancient or medieval mint.

241. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

The development of Gupta gold dinars shows a clear evolution in their weight and standards. Initially, the Guptas adopted the weight standard of the preceding Kushana dynasty, which was based on the Roman aureus. However, as the empire consolidated and its own administrative traditions matured, later Gupta rulers increased the weight of their gold coins to align with a new local Indian standard. This shift reflects the dynasty's growing autonomy and its desire to establish a distinct and prestigious monetary identity that suited its own internal economic and cultural requirements.

242. (A) their precise regnal chronology from the dates on the coins.

The silver coinage of the Western Kshatrapas is exceptionally valuable for historians because it contains a continuous and precise regnal chronology. By recording the year of issue in the Saka era on the reverse of the coins, these rulers provided a nearly perfect temporal record of their dynasty for over three hundred years. This unique practice allows researchers to date individual reigns with a high degree of accuracy and provides a reliable chronological anchor for the history of Western India during a period where other records are often fragmentary or missing.

243. (C) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Indian coinage began with the indigenous punch-marked silver and copper coins, alongside uninscribed cast copper issues for local trade. The sophisticated die-striking technique was introduced later by the Indo-Greeks, bringing royal portraits to the subcontinent. Janapada coins represent the early currency of various territorial states and tribes. However, it is incorrect to say the Satavahanas were the first to issue gold coins; that innovation is credited to the Kushanas. This diverse history reflects the multiple technological and cultural influences that shaped the evolution of money in ancient India over many centuries.

244. (D) the ruler's claim to paramount sovereignty.

Depicting the Ashvamedha, or horse-sacrifice ritual, on gold coins was a powerful political statement used by Gupta emperors like Samudragupta and Kumaragupta I. This ancient Vedic sacrifice was performed only by the most powerful monarchs to assert their status as universal rulers or 'Chakravartins' who had successfully conquered all directions. By issuing coins to commemorate this ritual, the rulers provided a durable and public proclamation of their supreme sovereignty and divine legitimacy, emphasizing the military expansion and consolidation of their empire to both subjects and rivals alike.

245. (C) The exclusive use of aniconic symbols like the sun and hill.

Indo-Greek coinage is defined by its revolutionary shift away from purely aniconic symbols like those found on punch-marked coins. Instead, they introduced the Hellenistic tradition of featuring realistic, individualized portraits of kings and detailed depictions of Greek deities. Their coins were typically bilingual and bi-scriptual and were manufactured using the advanced die-striking technique. These features made Indo-Greek currency a unique historical document that recorded the likeness and titles of rulers, providing a new model for royal self-representation that set them apart from earlier indigenous monetary traditions.

246. (B) the foothills of the Shiwalik range in Uttarakhand and Himachal.

The find spots of Kuninda tribal coins are concentrated in the mountainous regions of

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the Shiwalik foothills and the upper Yamuna-Ganga valley. This distribution pattern helps historians locate the homeland of the Kuninda people in the modern states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Their silver and copper coins often feature the deity Siva and provide evidence of their autonomous political status during the early centuries CE. These numismatic finds are essential for reconstructing the history of Himalayan tribal republics that maintained their identity in the frontier regions of Northern India.

247. (D) The newly conquered western provinces.

The silver 'rupaka' of the Gupta dynasty was first introduced under Chandragupta II for circulation in the western regions of Malwa and Gujarat. Following the conquest of the Western Kshatrapas, the Guptas issued these coins to meet the economic needs of a population already accustomed to silver currency. By adopting the weight and style of the former Saka issues but adding their own dynastic marks like the Garuda, the Guptas ensured economic stability while asserting their new political authority in these strategically important and commercially vibrant western provinces of their empire.

248. (A) Gold coin

In the context of the Gupta period, the term 'Dinara' specifically refers to the standard gold coin of the empire. This name was derived from the Roman 'Denarius', reflecting the deep influence of international trade and monetary prestige. Gupta Dinaras were celebrated for their high gold purity and extraordinary artistic merit, depicting the emperor in various activities and a goddess on the reverse. They served as the primary medium for high-value transactions, land grants, and state propaganda, symbolizing the economic prosperity and cultural refinement of the Gupta Golden Age.

249. (C) The period's overall cultural renaissance and the use of coins to project royal ideology.

The artistic excellence of Gupta gold coins was a direct outcome of the broader cultural and intellectual renaissance that flourished during the Gupta period. The dynasty used its prestigious gold currency as a sophisticated medium for projecting a specific royal ideology, depicting the emperors not just as warriors, but as musicians, hunters, and pious devotees. This refined imagery, combined with elegant Sanskrit legends, mirrored the high standards of art, literature, and philosophy seen at the Gupta court, making their coinage a visual testament to the dynasty's majesty and cultural sophistication.

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250. (A) Uninscribed cast copper coins

The technique of using a clay mould with multiple sockets was an efficient method developed for the mass production of uninscribed cast copper coins. By pouring molten copper into these multi-coin moulds, mints could create large quantities of small-change currency simultaneously. This practical manufacturing process was ideal for meeting the high demand for low-denomination coins needed for everyday local transactions across ancient India. While these coins lacked the fine detail of die-struck issues, their widespread use confirms their essential role in the layered and functioning monetary economy of the early historical period.

251. (B) A period of economic distress.

The metallurgical composition of a coin serves as a direct indicator of a state's economic health. When a governing authority reduces the purity of precious metal in its currency, it typically reflects a period of financial hardship or economic distress. This practice allows a state to produce more coins during times of crisis, signaling underlying fiscal instability.

252. (A) The scarcity of corresponding literary sources.

For historical eras where literary records are either missing or insufficient, coins become the most reliable evidence for reconstruction. In the cases of the Indo-Greeks and Saka-Kshatrapas, numismatic data provides the only available information for establishing dynastic successions. Without these physical records, the political history and chronology of such ancient periods would remain entirely unknown to researchers.

253. (C) The territorial extent and commercial reach of a kingdom.

Analyzing where specific coin hoards are discovered helps historians map the territorial influence of an ancient kingdom. The physical presence of a state's currency in distant regions illustrates its established trade networks and

commercial reach. This distribution provides tangible proof of economic interactions and political boundaries that may not be detailed in the surviving literary accounts of the time.

254. (D) The name and titles of the issuing authority.

Coins function as official government records because they are stamped with the names and titles of the issuing authority. These inscriptions serve as a formal declaration of sovereignty and administrative control over the minting process. By carrying the ruler's official designation, the coin acts as a miniature legal document that validates the state's power and legitimacy across its territory.

255. (C) The study of coins is exclusively useful for understanding economic history.

While coins are essential for economic analysis, their historical utility extends far beyond financial data. They offer vital information regarding religious beliefs, political chronologies, and cultural shifts through their iconography and inscriptions. Restricting the study of numismatics solely to economic history ignores the wealth of social and political insights these artifacts provide, making the tool indispensable for a holistic historical perspective.

256. (B) The rise of the Mahajanapadas.

The emergence of a structured coinage system in India during the sixth century BCE coincided with the formation of the Mahajanapadas. This era was defined by significant urban growth and political centralization, creating a demand for a standardized medium of exchange. The rise of these powerful states necessitated monetary instruments to manage administrative costs, facilitate regional trade, and collect taxes.

257. (D) Units of value or metallic ornaments.

Terms like Nishka and Satamana mentioned in early Vedic texts are generally interpreted by scholars as measures of weight or precious metal ornaments rather than formal coins. Unlike minted currency, these items lacked the authoritative stamp and standardized weight characteristic of true coinage. They represent an earlier stage of value exchange that preceded the introduction of the first struck metallic currency.

258. (A) The collection of taxes and payment to officials.

The transition to a monetized economy allowed ancient states to move beyond the limitations of the barter system for governance. Standardized coins facilitated efficient administrative processes, specifically the collection of state taxes and the systematic payment of salaries to government officials. This development supported the complex logistical and fiscal needs of the growing political structures and urban centers during the early historical period.

259. (C) The guarantee of value by a marking authority.

The introduction of punch-marked coins represented a significant shift from simple bullion to a regulated monetary system. This technological advancement ensured that the value of the metal was officially guaranteed by a marking authority. By stamping symbols onto the metal, the issuing body certified its purity and weight, creating a trusted medium of exchange that laid the foundation for future empires.

260. (A) The requirements of a growing urban and political landscape.

The development of the first Indian coins was primarily driven by the socio-political evolution of the subcontinent during the second urbanization. As political entities became more centralized and urban centers expanded, the existing barter systems proved insufficient for complex trade and governance. Consequently, the needs of a sophisticated administrative and commercial environment necessitated the creation of a structured and authoritative monetary framework.

261. (D) Preparing a blank piece of metal called a planchet.

The manufacturing process for early struck coins began with the preparation of a metal blank known as a planchet. These blanks were typically created by cutting pieces from a flattened sheet of metal or by hammering a metal globule until it reached the desired thickness. Once these often irregular blanks were ready, they served as the base for receiving stamped symbols.

262. (B) Pouring molten metal into a mould.

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Casting was a coin production method that differed fundamentally from the striking process used for early punch-marked varieties. This technique involved melting metal alloys, such as copper or lead, and pouring the liquid into specially designed terracotta or bronze moulds. This approach allowed for the creation of multiple coins simultaneously and enabled the inclusion of intricate, uniform designs on both coin faces.

263. (C) The metal's value corresponded to the scale of the economic transaction.

Ancient Indian monetary systems utilized different metals to serve various levels of economic activity. High-value transactions generally required gold coins, while silver was the standard for major trade and copper was used for everyday local exchanges. This stratification of metals reflects a sophisticated understanding of currency and the need for a practical hierarchy of value suited to different economic scales.

264. (D) The striking method using hammers and punches.

Punch-marked coins were manufactured using a specific striking technique where various individual symbols were impressed onto a metal blank. A hammer was used to drive a punch into the surface of the planchet, leaving behind a distinct mark. This process often resulted in coins with irregular shapes and a series of symbols that did not form a single, unified design.

265. (A) The presence of written characters as part of the design.

While both types used the casting method, inscribed cast coins represented a technological advancement over their un-inscribed predecessors. These coins featured actual written characters, often in the Brahmi script, integrated into the mould's design. This addition allowed the issuing authority to be explicitly named or identified, moving away from purely symbolic representation toward more formal and communicative forms of state currency.

266. (B) The general absence of written legends.

A defining characteristic of punch-marked coins is the complete lack of alphabetical inscriptions or written legends. Instead of text identifying a king or region, these early silver issues rely solely on various punched symbols to certify their weight and quality. This reliance on abstract imagery distinguishes them from later dynasties, which frequently included the names and titles of rulers in script.

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267. (B) Certifications of weight and purity from various authorities.

The numerous geometric, floral, and animal motifs found on punch-marked coins served a functional rather than decorative purpose. These stamps are believed to be the marks of different authorities, such as local governors or money changers, who verified the coin's intrinsic value. Each symbol acted as a guarantee of the metal's weight and purity as it moved through various trade networks.

268. (A) By pouring molten copper or its alloy into a mould.

Un-inscribed cast coins were produced through a liquid metal process rather than manual striking. Craftsmen poured molten copper or base metal alloys into pre-formed moulds, which often featured simple symbols like elephants or swastikas. This manufacturing style resulted in coins that were typically thicker and less refined than punch-marked varieties, representing a distinct technological tradition in early Indian monetary history.

269. (C) A move towards explicitly naming the issuing authority.

The evolution from using only symbols to incorporating written legends on cast coins marked a significant shift in political communication. By including rudimentary Brahmi script, these coins began to explicitly declare the name of the issuing authority or the specific administrative body. This change reflected a growing need for a more formal and recognizable assertion of sovereignty within the monetary system.

270. (D) Punch-marked coins are irregularly shaped, while cast coins are generally thicker.

Punch-marked coins were typically cut from thin metal sheets, which resulted in their characteristic irregular and angular shapes. In contrast, un-inscribed cast coins were formed by

288. (B) Samudragupta

The 'lyrist type' coin is a famous gold issue that depicts the emperor Samudragupta seated on a couch and playing a stringed instrument known as a lyre or veena. This specific design was intended to showcase the king's personal accomplishments as a musician and a patron of the arts. It serves as an allegorical representation of his multi-faceted and cultured personality.

289. (D) The goddess Lakshmi seated on a lotus.

The reverse side of most Gupta gold coins typically features a depiction of the goddess Lakshmi. Often shown seated on a blooming lotus flower, she serves as a symbol of wealth, fortune, and prosperity. This consistent religious motif reinforced the idea of divine favor and the economic success of the Gupta Empire, aligning the ruling dynasty with the auspicious presence of the goddess.

290. (A) allegorically represent the king's virtues and power.

The various poses of the king on Gupta coins, such as the archer, horseman, or lion-slayer, were primarily symbolic in nature. Rather than providing strictly realistic portraits, these designs served as allegories for the monarch's martial prowess, bravery, and administrative virtues. These stylized representations functioned as potent tools of political propaganda, projecting the idealized image of a powerful and virtuous sovereign.

291. (C) Extensive maritime trade between India and the Roman Empire.

The discovery of vast quantities of Roman coins across the Indian subcontinent provides undeniable archaeological proof of flourishing maritime commerce. These finds, particularly concentrated in Southern India, demonstrate a sustained economic connection between the Roman Empire and Indian kingdoms during the first two centuries of the Common Era. This evidence highlights the importance of ancient global trade routes in connecting distant civilizations.

292. (A) Their value was primarily in their metal content, not as circulating currency.

High-value Roman gold and silver coins were likely not used for small-scale local transactions within India. Instead, they were valued for their intrinsic precious metal content, functioning essentially as bullion to settle large trade debts. Because their face value as Roman currency carried no weight in the Indian economy, these coins were often stored as wealth or melted down for other uses.

293. (D) tested for metallic purity and treated as bullion.

The practice of slashing or defacing Roman coins found in Indian hoards indicates that they were being treated as raw precious metal rather than official currency. Merchants and authorities likely performed these cuts to verify the metallic purity of the gold or silver before accepting them. This physical evidence supports the theory that Roman currency was viewed by Indians as high-value bullion.

294. (B) In Southern India.

The most significant concentrations of Roman coin hoards have been unearthed in Southern India. This regional abundance is directly linked to the thriving maritime trade that utilized the ports along the southern coasts to export luxury goods like spices and textiles. The high volume of precious metal coins found here underscores the intensity of economic interactions between this region and the Mediterranean world.

295. (C) A trade imbalance that was in India's favor.

The influx of massive amounts of Roman gold and silver into India suggests a significant trade surplus for Indian merchants. Since Roman traders had to pay for luxury goods with precious metal bullion rather than equivalent trade goods, wealth flowed steadily from West to East. This pattern indicates that Indian exports were in high demand, creating an economic situation that favored the Indian subcontinent.

296. (D) A decline in artistic quality and metallic purity.

During the transition to the early medieval period, Indian coinage generally experienced a decrease in both artistic execution and metallic quality. The high standards established by the Gupta dynasty were replaced by more localized and less

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279. (C) They provide the main evidence for the chronology of many Indo-Greek rulers.

For many of the forty or more Indo-Greek kings and queens, coinage is the only surviving record of their existence. These coins provide essential data regarding the names, titles, and succession of rulers that are completely absent from literary texts. Without this numismatic evidence, the complex chronology and political history of these Hellenistic kingdoms in India would be lost.

280. (D) King's portrait on the obverse and a deity with a Prakrit legend on the reverse.

A standard Indo-Greek coin featured a distinct arrangement that combined artistic detail with bilingual information. The obverse typically displayed a realistic portrait of the reigning king accompanied by a Greek legend. On the reverse, the coin usually depicted a deity or a religious symbol, along with a Prakrit translation of the king's name and titles written in Kharosthi or Brahmi script.

281. (A) inclusion of dates in the Saka era.

The coinage of the Saka-Kshatrapas is exceptionally valuable to historians because it frequently includes specific dates based on the Saka era. This chronological precision is rare in ancient Indian history and allows for the accurate dating of various reigns and events. By providing a clear timeline of succession, these silver coins serve as a foundational anchor for reconstructing regional political history.

282. (B) The depiction of deities from multiple cultural pantheons.

The cultural diversity of the Kushana Empire is vividly displayed through the religious iconography on its gold and copper coins. These issues feature a wide array of deities from Greek, Iranian, and Indian traditions, illustrating a policy of religious syncretism. This blend of different pantheons on official currency highlights the empire's pluralistic character and its role as a crossroads of civilizations.

283. (B) The Satavahanas.

The Satavahana dynasty, which ruled extensively over the Deccan, frequently used the ship motif on its coinage. This unique iconographic choice emphasizes the significant role of maritime trade and naval power during their reign. By depicting ships on their currency, the Satavahanas highlighted their engagement with coastal commerce and their control over important ports along the Indian Ocean trade routes.

284. (A) Saka coins featured realistic portraits, while Satavahana coins typically did not.

One major distinction between these two contemporary dynasties lies in their approach to portraiture. The Saka-Kshatrapas continued the Indo-Greek tradition of placing realistic, individualized busts of their rulers on their silver coins. In contrast, Satavahana coins, often minted in base metals like lead, lacked these lifelike portraits and instead featured various motifs such as lions, elephants, or religious symbols.

285. (C) Satavahanas and Saka-Kshatrapas.

The 'Ujjain' symbol, characterized by a cross with four circles at its ends, is a distinctive feature found on the coins of both the Satavahanas and the Saka-Kshatrapas. Its presence on the coinage of these rival powers indicates shared regional artistic influences or administrative traditions in central and western India. This symbol serves as a common numismatic link between these two major dynasties.

286. (D) Dinaras

During the Gupta period, the high-purity gold coins issued by the state were officially known as Dinaras. These coins represented the economic prosperity of the era and were famous for their exceptional artistic quality. The use of this specific term reflects the significant role that gold currency played in the large-scale trade and political propaganda of the Gupta 'Golden Age'.

287. (C) Classical Sanskrit in Brahmi script.

A notable transformation in Gupta numismatics was the shift away from Prakrit and mixed languages toward the use of classical Sanskrit. The inscriptions on these coins were often poetic in nature and were meticulously written in the Brahmi script. This linguistic change mirrored the broader cultural and literary renaissance occurring during the Gupta era, where Sanskrit became the primary language of the court.

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CHAPTER 10

Methodology of Archaeological Research

1. In the context of archaeological research, what is the primary role of methodology?
(A) To guarantee the consistent discovery of culturally significant artifacts.
(B) To provide a systematic framework for research and ensure valid conclusions.
(C) To dictate the specific theoretical perspective a researcher must adopt.
(D) To focus exclusively on the laboratory-based analysis of recovered finds.

2. Which of the following is considered a core characteristic of academic research in archaeology?
(A) It is cyclical, starting with a problem and ending with its solution.
(B) It is based primarily on personal beliefs and anecdotal evidence.
(C) It is always conducted in total isolation without any collaboration.
(D) It aims to prove a pre-decided conclusion regardless of evidence.

3. Match List I with List II to identify the correct descriptions of research methods.
List I: (Research Method)
P. Case Study
Q. Field Investigation
R. Experimental Archaeology
S. Ethno-archaeology
List II: (Description)
1. Replicating past technologies to understand processes.
2. In-depth analysis of a single site, event, or community.
3. Studying living communities to draw analogies for past behaviors.
4. Systematic survey and excavation at an archaeological site.
Codes:
(A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

4. A fundamental principle of research ethics in archaeology is to obtain 'informed consent'. What does this typically involve?
(A) Seeking permission from a government body before publishing any results.
(B) Getting a formal written agreement from all members of the research team.
(C) Ensuring all artifacts are cataloged before they are removed from the site.
(D) Informing descendant communities and stakeholders to obtain their permission.

5. Which of the following is NOT a legitimate purpose of a research hypothesis in archaeology?
(A) To guide the direction of the research and data collection.
(B) To propose a testable relationship between variables.
(C) To provide a final, unchangeable explanation of a phenomenon.
(D) To offer a tentative explanation for an observation.

6. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The formulation of a clear research design is a critical step before commencing any archaeological fieldwork.
Reason (R) : A research design outlines the methodology, objectives, and logistical plan, ensuring that data is collected systematically to address specific research questions.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

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refined issues. This decline often involved the debasement of metals, where silver was mixed with copper, and the naturalistic designs became more stylized and simplified over time.

297. (A) becoming progressively more abstract and stylized over time.

Indo-Sassanian coinage, which was widely used in Western India, is noted for its gradual transition from realistic imagery to extreme abstraction. Based on Sassanian royal prototypes, the designs became increasingly geometric and linear as the series evolved over several centuries. This stylistic shift reflects the local adaptation of foreign models and a move away from the naturalism of the earlier classical period.

298. (B) The Shahi kings of Kabul and Punjab.

The 'bull and horseman' coin design was originally introduced by the Shahi kings who ruled over the regions of Kabul and Punjab. This specific iconographic combination became highly popular and served as a standard model for numerous later dynasties in Northern India. Its widespread imitation for several centuries demonstrates the enduring influence and stability of this particular numismatic tradition in the region.

299. (B) The political fragmentation and rise of regional kingdoms.

The emergence of diverse and localized coin designs during the early medieval period is a direct reflection of political fragmentation. As the centralized power of earlier empires faded, numerous regional kingdoms arose, each asserting its independence by minting unique currency. These varied coins provide essential evidence for the rise of localized identities and the complex, decentralized nature of the subcontinent's political landscape.

300. (A) a shift in the economic resources available to rulers.

The decreased use of gold and the increased reliance on billon or copper during the early medieval era indicates a change in available economic resources. Regional rulers often faced different fiscal constraints compared to the vast empires of the past, leading to the production of lower-value currency. This shift reflects the changing economic realities and the localized nature of trade and state finance.

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P. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)
Q. Photogrammetry
R. Relational Database (e.g., SQL)
S. GPR (Ground-Penetrating Radar)

List II: (Archaeological Application)

1. Creating 3D models of artifacts from multiple photographs.
2. Mapping subtle earthworks and features hidden beneath forest canopy.
3. Detecting subsurface anomalies and buried structures without excavation.
4. Managing and querying large datasets of artifact attributes and contexts.

Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-3, R-2, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3
(C) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

16. Which of the following defines a secondary source in archaeological research?
(A) An artifact directly recovered from its original archaeological context.
(B) An interpretation of primary data, such as a journal article or monograph.
(C) An interview with a contemporary person who witnessed an ancient event.
(D) The original, untranslated text of a discovered ancient manuscript.

17. Which of the following actions constitutes a violation of research ethics in archaeology?
(A) Publishing research results in a standard peer-reviewed journal.
(B) Withholding data that contradicts the researcher's main hypothesis.
(C) Acknowledging all external sources of funding in a publication.
(D) Archiving all field records and data for use by future researchers.

18. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : A well-formulated hypothesis must be falsifiable.
Reason (R) : If a hypothesis cannot be tested in a way that it could be proven wrong, it falls outside the realm of scientific inquiry.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

19. In the context of research methods, a 'case study' in archaeology would most likely involve:
(A) A broad, comparative analysis of all Neolithic sites in a subcontinent.
(B) An experimental replication of various Bronze Age smelting techniques.
(C) An intensive investigation of a single complex site like Mohenjo-Daro.
(D) A statistical survey of ceramic typologies across an entire continent.

20. Consider the following statements about the characteristics of good archaeological research:
(1) It should be systematic and follow a logical sequence.
(2) It must be based on empirical evidence derived from observation or experimentation.
(3) Its conclusions should be presented as absolute and final truths.
(4) It should be replicable, or at least its methods transparent enough for others to evaluate.
(5) It must generate new questions or avenues for future research.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1), (2), (3) and (4) only
(B) (2), (3), (4) and (5) only
(C) (1), (2), (4) and (5) only
(D) (1), (3) and (5) only

21. What is the main purpose of a 'research design' in an archaeological project?
(A) To secure necessary funding from specific granting agencies.
(B) To summarize the final results after the research is completed.
(C) To act as a systematic blueprint for conducting the research.
(D) To serve as a formal government permit for site excavation.

22. Identifying the correct statement about primary and secondary data sources in archaeology:

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7. An archaeologist uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to overlay maps of soil types, water sources, and known artifact find spots to predict potential locations of ancient settlements. This is an application of which concept?
(A) Systematic referencing
(B) Primary data collection
(C) Case study methodology
(D) ICT usage in research

8. Which of the following statements about systematic referencing in an academic paper is incorrect?
(A) It is an optional component that can be omitted to save space.
(B) It allows readers to locate the sources used by the author.
(C) It gives credit to the original authors of ideas and data.
(D) It demonstrates the depth of the researcher's reading and knowledge base.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the systematic presentation of data:
(1) Tables are best used for presenting precise numerical data.
(2) Graphs can effectively illustrate trends and relationships between variables.
(3) A clear title and labeled axes are essential for any graph or chart.
(4) Raw, unprocessed data should always be presented in the main body of the research paper.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1) and (4) only
(B) (2), (3) and (4) only
(C) (1), (2) and (3) only
(D) (1) and (2) only

10. Which of the following best describes the 'role' of archaeological research in a broader context?
(A) To construct and test narratives about the human past using evidence.
(B) To accumulate a large collection of valuable historical antiquities.
(C) To provide popular tourist attractions for local economic development.
(D) To exclusively focus on the history of monumental stone architecture.

11. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of research ethics.
Statement II : Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's work or ideas as one's own without proper acknowledgment.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

12. Arrange the following steps in the archaeological research process in the correct chronological order:
(1) Data collection (Excavation/Survey)
(2) Formulation of a hypothesis
(3) Systematic presentation of results
(4) Data processing and analysis
(5) Identification of a research problem
(A) (5), (2), (1), (4), (3)
(B) (1), (2), (4), (5), (3)
(C) (5), (4), (2), (1), (3)
(D) (2), (5), (1), (3), (4)

13. In archaeological research, what is the cause-and-effect relationship between a hypothesis and data collection?
(A) Initial data collection causes the formulation of a new hypothesis.
(B) There is no functional relationship between hypothesis and data.
(C) A hypothesis determines the specific data needed for testing.
(D) Data collection and hypothesis formulation are independent processes.

14. Identify the correct pair from the following:
(A) Primary Source: A textbook on Harappan archaeology.
(B) Secondary Source: An excavated potsherd from a specific stratigraphic layer.
(C) Secondary Source: An original inscription on a temple wall.
(D) Primary Source: Field notes and drawings from an excavation.

15. Match List I with List II to identify the correct archaeological application of ICT tools.
List I: (ICT Tool)

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pouring molten metal into moulds, making them generally thicker and more robust in appearance. These physical differences reflect the separate manufacturing traditions—the striking of metal sheets versus the casting of liquid metal alloys.

271. (C) They provide evidence for the existence and sovereignty of local political entities.

Janapada and tribal coins are vital historical artifacts because they document the existence of various local polities that received little attention in ancient literature. These coins served as tangible declarations of political autonomy and sovereignty for oligarchic and monarchical states. By studying these issues, historians can reconstruct the diverse and fragmented political landscape of India before and after Mauryan centralization.

272. (B) Their rich iconography, including deities and martial motifs.

The coinage of tribal republics like the Yaudheyas is highly regarded for its elaborate and descriptive iconography. These copper coins frequently feature depictions of warrior deities like Kartikeya, reflecting the tribe's strong martial traditions and religious identity. Such detailed imagery, combined with specific legends, provides deep insight into the cultural and social values held by these independent north Indian communities.

273. (D) The sovereignty of the Yaudheya tribe or republic.

The inscription 'Yaudheya Ganasya Jaya' translates to the victory of the Yaudheya republic or people, serving as a powerful assertion of collective sovereignty. Unlike monarchical coins that name a single ruler, this legend emphasizes the tribal identity and the democratic or oligarchic nature of the group. It highlights their independence from larger empires and their success in maintaining self-governance.

274. (A) The standard punch-marked silver currency.

Early coinage from Janapadas such as Kashi, Kosala, and Magadha was initially modeled after the widespread punch-marked silver standard. These states adopted the established system of striking multiple symbols onto silver blanks to facilitate trade and administrative functions. Over time, these local issues evolved to include unique symbols and characteristics that asserted the distinct political identity of each individual Janapada.

275. (C) Following the decline of Mauryan central authority.

The issuance of independent tribal coinage by groups such as the Malavas and Audumbaras primarily occurred after the disintegration of the centralized Mauryan Empire. As central authority weakened, these regional republics asserted their autonomy by minting their own coins in copper or base alloys. This period of political fragmentation allowed for the flourishing of localized identities and varied numismatic traditions.

276. (A) The introduction of realistic royal portraiture.

The Indo-Greeks fundamentally transformed Indian numismatics by introducing the practice of realistic royal portraiture. Moving away from the abstract symbols found on earlier indigenous coins, they featured detailed and individualized busts of their monarchs on the obverse. This artistic innovation established a high standard for royal currency and influenced the design choices of many subsequent Indian dynasties for several centuries.

277. (D) Greek and Prakrit.

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Indo-Greek coinage is famously bilingual, reflecting the diverse linguistic environment of their territories. The coins typically featured a legend in the Greek language on the obverse side, while the reverse side provided a translation of that legend in Prakrit. This combination allowed the coins to be understood by both the Greek-speaking ruling elite and the local population of the Indian subcontinent.

278. (B) It helped in deciphering the Kharosthi script.

The bi-scriptual nature of Indo-Greek coins, featuring Greek script alongside Kharosthi or Brahmi, was crucial for modern linguistics. Since the legends were often direct translations, scholars used the known Greek text to unlock the phonetic values of the then-unknown Kharosthi script. This breakthrough allowed historians to read numerous ancient inscriptions and gain a deeper understanding of the region's historical records.

(A) A site report written by the original excavator is a secondary source.
(B) A potsherd, its context sheet, and a photograph of it in situ are all primary data.
(C) A 3D scan of an artifact is a secondary source.
(D) A review article summarizing recent research on a topic is a primary source.

23. A researcher is studying the wear patterns on ancient stone tools by creating replicas and using them to perform various tasks like cutting, scraping, and drilling. This method of research is best described as:
(A) Ethno-archaeology
(B) Case Study
(C) Field Investigation
(D) Experimental Archaeology

24. Which of the following is NOT an ethical obligation for an archaeologist?
(A) Selling duplicate or unimportant artifacts to fund further research.
(B) Ensuring the long-term conservation and curation of recovered artifacts and records.
(C) Respecting the rights and cultural heritage of descendant communities.
(D) Prompt and wide dissemination of research results.

25. Consider the following statements about hypothesis formulation:
(1) A hypothesis is a proven fact before research begins.
(2) A good hypothesis should be complex and untestable.
(3) A hypothesis provides a tentative answer to a research question.
(4) Research is conducted to collect data that can support or refute the hypothesis.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1) and (2) only
(B) (3) and (4) only
(C) (1), (2) and (3) only
(D) (2) and (4) only

26. The use of satellite imagery to identify ancient road systems or agricultural fields is an example of applying ICT for:
(A) Remote sensing in field investigation
(B) Data processing
(C) Systematic referencing
(D) Data presentation

27. The practice of creating a bibliography or list of references at the end of a research paper primarily serves the purpose of:
(A) Fulfilling an arbitrary academic tradition.
(B) Increasing the word count of the paper.
(C) Providing a list of suggested readings for the public.
(D) Acknowledging intellectual debt and enabling verification.

28. Which of the following is the most appropriate way to present the stratigraphic sequence of an excavation trench in a report?
(A) A long narrative paragraph
(B) A section drawing or Harris Matrix
(C) A pie chart
(D) A simple list of soil colors

29. An archaeologist studying the social organization of a prehistoric society by observing the spatial distribution of houses and activity areas in a living, traditional village is practicing which method of research?
(A) Experimental archaeology
(B) Underwater archaeology
(C) Ethno-archaeology
(D) Salvage archaeology

30. Match List I with List II to identify the correct descriptions of ethical principles.
List I: (Ethical Principle)
P. Stewardship
Q. Accountability
R. Commercialization
S. Public Education and Outreach
List II: (Action)
1. Making research findings accessible and understandable to the public.
2. The buying and selling of archaeological artifacts.
3. Being responsible for research to all stakeholders, including the public and descendant communities.
4. Caring for and managing the archaeological record for future generations.
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(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

31. A research design is typically comprised of several key components. Which of the following would be the most fundamental component?
(A) The research questions or problems to be addressed.
(B) The publication venue for the final report.
(C) The names of all potential student volunteers.
(D) The brand of excavation tools to be used.

32. What is the key difference between data 'processing' and data 'analysis' in archaeological research?
(A) Processing involves interpretation, while analysis involves cleaning and organizing data.
(B) Processing involves cleaning and organizing data, while analysis involves interpreting it to find patterns and answer questions.
(C) The terms are synonymous and can be used interchangeably.
(D) Processing is done in the field, while analysis is exclusively done in a laboratory.

33. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The use of ICT, such as digital databases, has revolutionized the processing of archaeological data.
Reason (R) : Digital databases allow for efficient storage, retrieval, and complex querying of vast amounts of information from excavations, which is impractical with paper-based systems.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

34. A reference in a text formatted as (Binford 1980: 25) is an example of what method of systematic referencing?
(A) In-text or parenthetical citation
(B) Footnote citation
(C) Endnote citation
(D) Bibliographic annotation

35. Consider the following statements related to research ethics in archaeology:
(1) It is ethical to excavate a sacred site against the explicit wishes of the concerned descendant community.
(2) Researchers have an ethical responsibility to publish and disseminate their findings in a timely manner.
(3) The archaeological record is a finite, non-renewable resource that must be managed responsibly.
(4) Fabricating data to support a compelling hypothesis is acceptable if it leads to a publication.
(5) All field notes, drawings, and data should be properly archived for future verification and use.
Which of the given statements represent ethical practices?
(A) (1), (2) and (3) only
(B) (2), (3) and (5) only
(C) (1), (4) and (5) only
(D) (2), (4) and (5) only

36. Which characteristic of research implies that the procedures undertaken can be repeated by another researcher to verify the results?
(A) Systematic
(B) Logical
(C) Empirical
(D) Replicability

37. Field investigations in archaeology encompass a range of activities. Which of the following is the most comprehensive description?
(A) Only the simple process of digging at a previously known site.
(B) The laboratory analysis of artifacts after field recovery.
(C) Systematic survey, excavation, and context-based recording of data.
(D) The writing and publication of the final research monograph.

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38. The initial step in formulating a research hypothesis is usually:
(A) Collecting all possible data.
(B) Observing a phenomenon or identifying a problem.
(C) Designing the experiment.
(D) Presenting the results.

39. A researcher is writing a book on the Indus Valley Civilization. They consult excavation reports from Harappa, monographs interpreting the findings, and satellite imagery of the region. The monographs they consulted would be classified as:
(A) Primary sources
(B) Tertiary sources
(C) Raw data
(D) Secondary sources

40. Consider the following statements about the use of ICT in archaeology:
(1) 3D photogrammetry allows for the creation of detailed virtual models of artifacts and features.
(2) GIS is used to analyze spatial relationships between sites and environmental variables.
(3) The internet facilitates rapid communication and collaboration among international research teams.
(4) ICT has made traditional skills like drawing and careful observation entirely obsolete.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1) and (4) only
(B) (2) and (3) only
(C) (1), (2) and (3) only
(D) (1), (2), (3) and (4)

41. What is the most common reason for using statistical charts (like bar charts or histograms) in the presentation of archaeological results?
(A) To make the report look more visually appealing.
(B) To present detailed qualitative descriptions of individual artifacts.
(C) To visually summarize and compare quantitative archaeological data.
(D) To fulfill a mandatory requirement by all academic journals.

42. Arrange the following referencing components as they would typically appear from the beginning to the end of a research paper:
(1) Bibliography / References List
(2) In-text citation
(3) Title of the paper
(4) Footnote/Endnote (if used)
(A) (3), (2), (4), (1)
(B) (3), (1), (2), (4)
(C) (2), (3), (1), (4)
(D) (1), (2), (3), (4)

43. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : Field investigations are random treasure hunts aimed at finding valuable objects.
Statement II : Archaeological field investigations are systematic inquiries guided by a research design to answer specific questions about the past.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

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44. Which of the following best exemplifies a 'case study' approach in archaeology?
(A) A statistical analysis of all Roman coins found in Britain.
(B) An in-depth, multi-faceted study of the site of Pompeii.
(C) An experimental study to determine pottery firing temperatures.
(D) A general textbook covering the entirety of world prehistory.

45. Match List I with List II to identify the correct definitions of research terms.
List I: (Term)
P. Hypothesis
Q. Research Design
R. Primary Source
S. Research Ethic
List II: (Definition)
1. A first-hand account or direct evidence from the period under study.
2. A moral principle that governs a researcher's conduct.
3. A testable proposition about the relationship between phenomena.

(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

79. The use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to map buried walls and features before excavation is an application of ICT in which phase of research?
(A) Field investigation
(B) Data presentation
(C) Systematic referencing
(D) Writing the final report

80. Consider the following activities related to the methodology of archaeological research:
(1) Observing pottery use in a modern village to understand ancient ceramics (Ethno-archaeology).
(2) Creating replica flint tools to understand their manufacturing process (Experimental Archaeology).
(3) Conducting an in-depth study of the single site of Catalhoyuk (Case Study).
(4) Systematically walking across fields to look for surface artifacts (Field Investigation).
(5) Falsifying the radiocarbon date of a sample to fit a theory (Violation of Research Ethics).
Which of the given statements describe valid methods of archaeological research?
(A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) only
(B) (2), (3), (4), and (5) only
(C) (1), (2), and (5) only
(D) (1), (3), and (4) only

81. Which of the following is an example of a secondary source in archaeological research?
(A) The field diary of an excavator.
(B) A monograph interpreting excavation reports from multiple sites.
(C) A stratum of soil containing artifacts.
(D) A pot found in an excavation.

82. The 'systematic presentation of data and results' is the final stage of the research process. What is its main purpose?
(A) To communicate findings to the academic community and stakeholders.
(B) To store data securely for personal use.
(C) To formulate the initial research hypothesis.
(D) To begin the process of data collection.

83. A research characteristic that ensures it is based on a structured procedure rather than haphazardly is known as being:
(A) Empirical
(B) Cyclical
(C) Systematic
(D) Replicable

84. In research ethics, what is a 'conflict of interest'?
(A) A disagreement between two researchers about a theoretical interpretation.
(B) The use of conflicting data sources in a single paper.
(C) A debate between the researcher and a funding agency over the budget.
(D) A situation where personal interests compromise professional judgment.

85. Consider the following statements about research design:
(1) A research design is a blueprint that links the research questions to the data that will be collected.
(2) It must specify the geographical and temporal limits of the study.
(3) It acts as a guide for the systematic collection and analysis of data.
(4) A pilot study is often part of a research design to test the methodology.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1) and (2) only
(B) (3) and (4) only
(C) (1), (2), (3) and (4)
(D) (2) and (3) only

86. Which method of research would be most appropriate for understanding the function of a mysterious artifact by recreating and using it?
(A) Case study
(B) Experimental archaeology
(C) Field survey
(D) Ethno-archaeology

87. Identifying the incorrect pair from the following:
(A) Primary Source: An ancient coin.
(B) Secondary Source: A book review.

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(A) Ignore the tool as it is an anomaly that complicates the research.
(B) Immediately declare it as proof of a new, undiscovered culture.
(C) Document the tool and its context meticulously and consider revising the hypothesis or typology to account for it.
(D) Assume the tool is intrusive from a later period without further investigation.

54. The concept of 'stewardship' in archaeological ethics implies that:
(A) Archaeologists are the owners of the artifacts they excavate.
(B) The archaeological record is a public trust, and archaeologists are caretakers.
(C) Only professional archaeologists should have access to archaeological sites.
(D) The primary goal is to sell artifacts to the highest bidder for preservation.

55. Consider the following statements regarding research design:
(1) A research design is a rigid plan that cannot be modified under any circumstances.
(2) A research design should outline the methods for data collection and analysis.
(3) A research design must state the research question and objectives.
(4) A research design should include a plan for publication and dissemination of results.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1) and (2) only
(B) (2), (3) and (4) only
(C) (1), (3) and (4) only
(D) (1) and (4) only

56. Which of the following is a primary source for an archaeologist studying ancient dietary habits?
(A) Animal bones and carbonized plant seeds recovered from a hearth feature.
(B) A modern book on the history of food.
(C) A journal article interpreting faunal remains from a site.
(D) A documentary film about prehistoric cooking.

57. The use of software like SPSS or R to perform statistical tests on artifact measurement data is a clear example of:
(A) The formulation of a research hypothesis.
(B) A method of systematic referencing.
(C) ICT in data analysis and processing.
(D) A field investigation technique.

58. What is the main ethical concern regarding the commercialization of archaeological artifacts?
(A) It encourages site looting and context destruction for profit.
(B) It lowers the general market value of genuine antiquities.
(C) It makes it difficult for national museums to acquire new items.
(D) It is generally encouraged as a way to fund archaeological research.

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59. Which of the following is the best definition of 'research' in an academic context?
(A) A casual search for information on the internet.
(B) The act of summarizing a book.
(C) The process of collecting old objects.
(D) A systematic and scholarly investigation into a specific problem or question.

60. Match List I with List II to identify the correct archaeological concept for each activity.
List I: (Research Activity)
P. Creating a 3D model from photos
Q. Writing a bibliography
R. Formulating a testable question
S. Excavating a test pit
List II: (Associated Concept)
1. Hypothesis Formulation
2. Field Investigation
3. Systematic Referencing
4. ICT in Research (Photogrammetry)
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(C) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3
(D) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

61. What does the term 'empirical' mean in the context of the characteristics of research?
(A) Based on logical argument alone.

4. A strategic plan for executing a research project.

Codes:
(A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1
(D) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2

46. Data fabrication, a severe breach of research ethics, refers to:
(A) Using statistical methods to analyze data.
(B) Using ICT to visualize data in a new way.
(C) Re-analyzing existing data from a previous study.
(D) Making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

47. In archaeological research, what is a null hypothesis (H0)?
(A) A statement of 'no effect' or 'no difference' used for testing.
(B) A specific hypothesis that the researcher believes to be true.
(C) The final summarized conclusion of the research project.
(D) A hypothesis that has been proven false by previous research.

48. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.

Assertion (A) : Archaeological research is inherently destructive, especially excavation.

Reason (R) : The process of excavation removes and dismantles the archaeological context, which cannot be recreated, making meticulous recording and documentation an ethical imperative.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

49. An archaeologist uses a Total Station for creating a precise digital map of an excavation site, recording the exact 3D coordinates of every feature and significant find. This activity is a part of:
(A) Secondary source collection
(B) Primary data collection and processing
(C) Hypothesis formulation
(D) Systematic referencing

50. Consider the following statements regarding the role and characteristics of archaeological research:
(1) The primary role is to interpret past human behavior and societies.
(2) Research is typically initiated to solve a specific problem or question.
(3) It requires a subjective approach where evidence is optional.
(4) Research is a structured process involving a research design.
(5) It often involves interdisciplinary collaboration with sciences like geology and biology.

Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1), (2), (4) and (5) only
(B) (2), (3), (4) and (5) only
(C) (1), (2), (4) and (5) only
(D) (1), (3) and (5) only

51. The Chicago Manual of Style and the APA style are examples of what?
(A) Methods of field investigation
(B) Types of research design
(C) Formats for systematic referencing
(D) Techniques for data processing

52. Identifying the incorrect statement regarding the presentation of research results:
(A) The presentation should be logical and clearly structured.
(B) Conclusions should be explicitly linked back to the initial research questions.
(C) Use of appropriate tables, figures, and maps is crucial for clarity.
(D) Data should be presented in a way that supports the hypothesis, and contradictory data should be omitted.

53. An archaeologist finds a unique tool at a site that challenges existing typologies. What is the most appropriate next step according to the methodology of research?

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(2) Excavation is an inherently destructive process.
(3) All field activities should be guided by a research design.
(4) The goal of field investigation is solely to collect museum-quality objects.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1) and (4) only
(B) (1), (2) and (3) only
(C) (2), (3) and (4) only
(D) (1) and (2) only

71. A systematic, critical, and self-critical enquiry which aims to contribute to the advancement of knowledge. This is a definition of:
(A) Data processing
(B) Referencing
(C) A hypothesis
(D) Research

72. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : A good research design in archaeology must be flexible enough to accommodate unexpected discoveries.
Statement II : Unexpected discoveries during fieldwork are common and may require modification of the original research strategy.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

73. The process of cleaning, sorting, classifying, and cataloging artifacts after an excavation is known as:
(A) Hypothesis formulation
(B) Field investigation
(C) Data processing
(D) Systematic referencing

74. Which of the following is NOT a method of archaeological research?
(A) Plagiarism
(B) Field Investigation
(C) Case Study
(D) Ethno-archaeology

75. Match List I with List II to identify the correct key activity for each stage of research.
List I: (Stage of Research)
P. Research Design
Q. Data Processing
R. Data Collection
S. Presentation of Results
List II: (Key Activity)
1. Writing a monograph or journal article.
2. Formulating questions and selecting methods.
3. Creating a ceramic typology from excavated sherds.
4. Conducting a systematic surface survey.
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-4, R-3, S-2
(B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-2, R-1, S-4
(D) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

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76. The ethical principle of 'public education and outreach' requires archaeologists to:
(A) Keep their findings secret to avoid misinterpretation by the public.
(B) Communicate work results and importance to non-academic audiences.
(C) Only publish in highly specialized, inaccessible journals.
(D) Charge the public for access to any information about their research.

77. An archaeologist proposes that the adoption of agriculture in a specific region led to an increase in population density. This statement is an example of a:
(A) Research design
(B) Primary source
(C) Hypothesis
(D) Conclusion

78. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : Systematic referencing is crucial for academic integrity.
Reason (R) : Proper citation avoids plagiarism by giving credit to original authors and allows other researchers to trace the sources of information.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

(B) Based on traditional beliefs.
(C) Based on observation, experience, or experimentation.
(D) Based on a researcher's personal opinion.

62. Data falsification in research ethics refers to:
(A) Using data from a secondary source.
(B) Correcting genuine errors in the dataset.
(C) Creating a backup of the original dataset.
(D) Manipulating research processes, or changing and omitting data.

63. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : Ethno-archaeology provides robust analogies for interpreting the archaeological record.
Reason (R) : By studying how material culture is used and discarded in living societies, archaeologists can develop models to understand similar patterns in past societies.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

64. A 'case study' as a research method is characterized by being:
(A) Broad and general, covering many examples superficially.
(B) Intensive and in-depth, focusing on a single instance or case.
(C) Exclusively quantitative and statistical.
(D) Always comparative between two different cultures.

65. Consider the following statements regarding primary and secondary sources in archaeology:
(1) An original excavation report is a primary source.
(2) A university textbook on archaeological theory is a secondary source.
(3) An artifact's provenience data is a primary source.
(4) A television documentary about an ancient civilization is a secondary source.
(5) A researcher's personal opinion, not based on evidence, is a valid primary source.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1), (2), (3) and (4) only
(B) (2), (3), (4) and (5) only
(C) (1), (2) and (5) only
(D) (1), (3) and (4) only

66. What is the function of a 'control group' in experimental archaeology?
(A) To provide a baseline for comparison against the experimental variable.
(B) To be the group that receives the primary experimental treatment.
(C) To ensure the experiment is funded properly.
(D) To document the results of the experiment.

67. Identifying the correct pair of archaeological activity and ICT application:
(A) Field Survey: Using Microsoft Word to write a report.
(B) Referencing: Using a shovel to excavate.
(C) Data Analysis: Using a relational database to query artifact data.
(D) Data Presentation: Using a trowel for fine-grained digging.

68. A key ethical responsibility of an archaeologist is 'accountability'. To whom are archaeologists primarily accountable?
(A) Only to the agency that funds their research.
(B) Only to their academic peers.
(C) Only to themselves and their personal research goals.
(D) To the scholarly community, descendant groups, and the public.

69. In the presentation of results, what is the purpose of an 'abstract'?
(A) To provide a detailed, exhaustive description of the entire research.
(B) To list all the references cited in the paper.
(C) To provide a brief summary of the research and its results.
(D) To present the raw data in tabular form.

70. Consider the following statements about archaeological field investigations:
(1) Surface survey is a non-invasive method to identify and map sites.

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(C) Secondary Source: A textbook on world prehistory.
(D) Primary Source: A research article analyzing data from a site.

88. Arrange the following actions in a typical chronological sequence for an archaeological excavation project:
(1) Backfilling the excavated trenches.
(2) Establishing a site grid.
(3) Publishing the final excavation report.
(4) Analysis of artifacts in the lab.
(A) (2), (1), (4), (3)
(B) (2), (4), (1), (3)
(C) (1), (2), (4), (3)
(D) (3), (2), (1), (4)

89. A researcher uses the online portal of the Archaeological Survey of India to access reports and site data. This is an example of using:
(A) Primary sources only
(B) A method of field investigation
(C) ICT for accessing primary and secondary sources
(D) A method of systematic presentation

90. Consider the following statements about the systematic presentation of results:
(1) All data, regardless of relevance, should be included in the main text.
(2) The language used should be clear, concise, and objective.
(3) Conclusions should logically follow from the evidence presented and analyzed.
(4) The final report should acknowledge the limitations of the research.
(5) Visual aids like maps and charts should be self-explanatory with proper labels and captions.
Which of the given statements represent good practice?
(A) (1), (2) and (3) only
(B) (2), (3), (4) and (5) only
(C) (1), (3) and (5) only
(D) (2), (4) and (5) only

91. The primary goal of archaeological research is to:
(A) Create a monetary value for ancient objects.
(B) Prove the historical accuracy of ancient texts.
(C) Decorate museums with beautiful artifacts.
(D) Understand the human past through the study of material remains.

92. What is the role of a 'research question' in a research design?
(A) It is the final answer provided by the research.
(B) It is a specific inquiry which the research seeks to provide an answer to.
(C) It is a summary of the data collected.
(D) It is an ethical guideline for the researcher.

93. A PhD thesis that synthesizes all available data on a particular prehistoric culture is an example of:
(A) A primary source
(B) Raw data
(C) A secondary source
(D) A field note

94. The use of digital calipers connected to a laptop to directly input artifact measurements into a spreadsheet is an application of ICT in:
(A) Hypothesis formulation
(B) Systematic referencing
(C) Peer review
(D) Data collection and processing

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95. Match List I with List II to identify the typical feature of each citation style.
List I: (Citation Style)
P. Chicago (Author-Date)
Q. MLA (Modern Language Association)
R. APA (American Psychological Association)
S. Footnotes/Endnotes
List II: (Typical Feature)
1. Commonly used in social sciences, emphasizes date of publication.
2. Provides citation information at the bottom of the page or end of the document.
3. Commonly used in humanities, focuses on authorship.
4. In-text citation format of (Author, Year, p. #).
Codes:
(A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2
(B) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

96. The systematic arrangement of data in tables and the use of graphs to show trends falls under which aspect of research methodology?
(A) Hypothesis formulation
(B) Systematic presentation of data
(C) Research ethics
(D) Field investigation

97. A team excavating a burial site discovers human remains. What is the most ethically responsible first step?
(A) Immediately publish photos of the remains on social media.
(B) Halt excavation, document the find, and consult with descendant communities.
(C) Rebury the remains quickly to avoid complications.
(D) Take samples for DNA analysis without any consultation.

98. Which of the following is an example of a 'negative' or 'exception-based' question in the context of research methods?
(A) All of the following are characteristics of good research, EXCEPT:
(B) Which of the following is a method of research?
(C) What is the purpose of a case study?
(D) How is a hypothesis formulated?

99. The cyclical nature of research means that:
(A) Research is endless and never reaches a conclusion.
(B) Research must be repeated every year.
(C) A project conclusion often generates new questions for further research.
(D) The same methods must be used in a repeating cycle.

100. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : In archaeology, a case study cannot provide broad generalizations applicable to all cultures.
Reason (R) : A case study is an in-depth investigation of a single, specific context, and its findings are not necessarily representative of other, different contexts.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

101. Which research method involves the study of living societies to make inferences about past societies?
(A) Experimental archaeology
(B) Case study
(C) Ethno-archaeology
(D) Field investigation

102. What is the core principle behind the formulation of a research hypothesis?
(A) To create a statement that is definitively true.
(B) To create a testable proposition that can be evaluated by evidence.
(C) To summarize existing knowledge on a topic.
(D) To create a complex question that cannot be answered.

103. Identifying the correct statement about data processing:
(A) It is the final step in the research process.
(B) It involves the interpretation and synthesis of information.
(C) It is an optional step that can be skipped in small projects.
(D) It involves organizing, cleaning, and preparing raw data for analysis.

104. Zotero and Mendeley are examples of ICT tools primarily used for:
(A) Managing references and generating bibliographies
(B) Archaeological survey
(C) 3D modeling of artifacts
(D) Statistical analysis of data

105. Consider the following components of research methodology:
(1) Stating the research problem clearly.
(2) Formulating a hypothesis.

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(3) Choosing the appropriate data collection techniques.
(4) Planning the data analysis methods.
Which of these are typically included in a research design?
(A) (1) and (2) only
(B) (3) and (4) only
(C) (1), (2) and (3) only
(D) (1), (2), (3) and (4)

106. In the context of presenting results, a 'map' is most effectively used to:
(A) Display the spatial distribution of sites, features, or artifact densities.
(B) Show the precise frequency of different pottery types.
(C) Illustrate the chronological development of a tool industry.
(D) Present the detailed budget of the excavation project.

107. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : Research ethics in archaeology are universal and have remained unchanged over time.
Statement II : Modern archaeological ethics increasingly emphasize collaboration with and accountability to descendant communities and local stakeholders.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

108. An original, unpublished excavation plan drawn in the field in 1955 is considered what type of source?
(A) Secondary source
(B) Primary source
(C) Tertiary source
(D) A type of ICT

109. Which of the following is the most significant characteristic of academic research?
(A) It is conducted quickly to produce immediate results.
(B) It is based on popular opinion.
(C) It is rigorous, systematic, and verifiable.
(D) Its results are kept secret from the public.

110. Consider the following statements about research ethics:
(1) Data should be recorded honestly and accurately.
(2) It is acceptable to ignore safety regulations in the field to save time.
(3) Credit should be given to all contributors to the research project.
(4) The intellectual property of informants and local communities should be respected.
(5) Selling artifacts from an excavation is a valid fundraising method.
Which of the given statements represent ethical conduct?
(A) (1), (3) and (4) only
(B) (2), (4) and (5) only
(C) (1), (2) and (3) only
(D) (3), (4) and (5) only

111. The process of developing a strategy to answer a research question is known as:
(A) Research design
(B) Data processing
(C) Referencing
(D) Data presentation

112. Why are 'field investigations' central to archaeology?
(A) Because they provide a relaxing outdoor activity for academics.
(B) Because they provide the primary contextualized data about the past.
(C) Because they are the only part of research that requires funding.
(D) Because written sources are always more reliable and should be prioritized.

113. A statement like, If Mesolithic communities in this valley were mobile hunter-gatherers, then we should find small, temporary campsites with a limited range of tool types. This is an example of:
(A) A confirmed conclusion
(B) A testable hypothesis
(C) A secondary source
(D) A research ethic

114. The term 'data processing' in archaeology includes all of the following EXCEPT:

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(A) Writing the final conclusions of the research paper.
(B) Washing and labeling artifacts.
(C) Entering artifact data into a database.
(D) Classifying pottery sherds into typological groups.

115. Match List I with List II to identify the typical content for each part of a research report.
List I: (Part of a Report)
P. Introduction
Q. Methodology
R. Results
S. Conclusion
List II: (Content)
1. Presentation of analyzed data in the form of text, tables, and figures.
2. Summary of findings and their implications, with suggestions for future research.
3. Statement of the problem, research questions, and hypothesis.
4. Description of the methods used for data collection and analysis.
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

116. Using an online academic database like JSTOR or Academia.edu to find relevant journal articles is an application of:
(A) Experimental archaeology
(B) Field investigation
(C) Primary data collection
(D) ICT in the literature review process

117. What is the fundamental ethical problem with the looting of archaeological sites?
(A) It makes artifacts too expensive for museums to buy.
(B) It is usually done without a proper government permit.
(C) It destroys scientific value by removing archaeological context.
(D) It prevents local people from selling the artifacts themselves.

118. Which of the following is the best description of a research problem?
(A) A difficulty encountered during fieldwork, like bad weather.
(B) A gap in knowledge or controversy that research aims to address.
(C) A lack of funding for a project.
(D) A disagreement with a colleague.

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119. A key component of a 'research design' is the 'sampling strategy'. Why is this important in a large-scale field survey?
(A) To ensure that only the most valuable artifacts are found.
(B) To make the research process more random and unpredictable.
(C) To reduce the amount of walking the survey team has to do.
(D) To provide a representative way of collecting data from a large area.

120. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : The interpretation of data is a subjective process, and therefore all archaeological conclusions are equally valid.
Reason (R) : Archaeological interpretation must be grounded in and constrained by the empirical evidence gathered through systematic research.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

121. The examination of an issue or event in-depth and in its real-world context best describes which method of research?
(A) Experimental
(B) Chronological
(C) Case Study
(D) Statistical

122. In the context of data collection, what is the difference between 'primary' and 'secondary' data?
(A) Primary data is collected firsthand, while secondary data is from others.

(B) Primary data is more important than secondary data.
(C) Primary data is qualitative, while secondary data is quantitative.
(D) Primary data is found in books, while secondary data is found in the field.

123. The creation of a Harris Matrix to represent the stratigraphic relationships of an excavation is a tool for:
(A) Formulating an initial hypothesis.
(B) Writing a bibliography.
(C) Public outreach.
(D) Data processing and analysis.

124. Which of the following best represents the role of ICT in modern archaeological research?
(A) It has completely replaced the need for fieldwork.
(B) It is a powerful tool for collection, analysis, and dissemination.
(C) Its only use is for typing final reports.
(D) It is primarily used for entertainment during long excavation seasons.

125. Consider the following statements regarding research ethics:
(1) Plagiarism is the unattributed use of another's work.
(2) Informed consent should be sought from relevant communities.
(3) Data can be manipulated to better fit a desired outcome.
(4) Researchers have a responsibility for the conservation of artifacts.
Which of the given statements describe ethical obligations?
(A) (1), (2) and (4) only
(B) (2) and (3) only
(C) (1), (3) and (4) only
(D) (1) and (2) only

126. A bibliography is a key part of the systematic presentation of results. What information does it contain?
(A) A list of all individuals who worked on the project.
(B) A detailed list of all artifacts found, with measurements.
(C) A summary of the key research findings.
(D) A complete list of all sources cited in the research paper.

127. Which characteristic of research emphasizes that it must be based on evidence gathered from the real world?
(A) Empirical
(B) Systematic
(C) Logical
(D) Cyclical

128. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : The aim of a field investigation is to systematically recover archaeological data in its context.
Statement II : The context of an artifact is irrelevant to its interpretation.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

129. The first step in the scientific method of research is:
(A) Formulating a hypothesis
(B) Identifying a problem or asking a question
(C) Conducting an experiment
(D) Analyzing data

130. Consider the following statements about methods of archaeological research:
(1) Field investigation involves survey and excavation.
(2) A case study provides a broad, general overview of a topic.
(3) Experimental archaeology involves replicating past technologies.
(4) Ethno-archaeology studies contemporary cultures to understand the past.
(5) All research must begin with excavation.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1), (2), (3) and (4) only
(B) (1), (3) and (4) only
(C) (2), (3), (4) and (5) only
(D) (1), (2) and (5) only

131. Which of the following would NOT be considered a primary source for an archaeologist?
(A) A set of field notes from a 1960s excavation.

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(B) A collection of potsherds from a stratified context.
(C) A popular magazine article about a recent archaeological discovery.
(D) A core sample from a lake bed showing pollen sequences.

132. The process of converting raw field data (e.g., measurements, drawings, notes) into a structured format for analysis is called:
(A) Hypothesis formulation
(B) Data dissemination
(C) Literature review
(D) Data processing

133. A researcher uses specialized software to stitch together hundreds of aerial photographs taken by a drone to create a high-resolution 3D model of an entire archaeological site. This technique is called:
(A) Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)
(B) Magnetometry
(C) Photogrammetry
(D) Systematic Referencing

134. A researcher must ensure that their work does not cause harm to people, artifacts, or the archaeological record. This principle is a cornerstone of:
(A) Research design
(B) Research ethics
(C) Data presentation
(D) Hypothesis formulation

135. Arrange the following broad stages of a research project in their correct chronological order:
(1) Data Analysis and Interpretation
(2) Identification of Research Problem and Hypothesis Formulation
(3) Dissemination of Results (e.g., publication)
(4) Data Collection (e.g., fieldwork)
(A) (2), (4), (1), (3)
(B) (1), (2), (4), (3)
(C) (2), (1), (4), (3)
(D) (4), (2), (1), (3)

136. Why is the systematic presentation of results crucial for the advancement of archaeology?
(A) It allows other researchers to verify, critique, and build upon the work.
(B) It ensures the researcher gains personal fame.
(C) It is the most expensive part of the research.
(D) It is a formality with no real impact on the discipline.

137. Which of the following is an example of a good hypothesis?
(A) Ancient people lived in this area.
(B) Were there people here in the past?
(C) Iron tools adoption increased agriculture, which enlarged storage pits.
(D) The past is unknowable.

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138. The peer-review process, a critical component of academic publishing, is an example of which characteristic of research?
(A) It being a critical and self-critical enquiry
(B) It being cyclical
(C) It being empirical
(D) It being based on ICT

139. A comprehensive study of the rock art at Bhimbetka, including its styles, chronology, and interpretation, would be best classified as what type of research?
(A) An experimental study
(B) An ethno-archaeological study
(C) A purely theoretical study
(D) A case study

140. Match List I with List II to identify the correct description for each ethical violation.
List I: (Ethical Violation)
P. Plagiarism
Q. Fabrication
R. Falsification
S. Conflict of Interest
List II: (Description)
1. Making up data or results.
2. Manipulating research materials or omitting data.
3. A situation where personal interests could compromise professional judgment.
4. Presenting another's work as one's own without credit.
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

(C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

141. The initial planning phase of an archaeological project, which outlines the why, what, where, and how of the research, is called the:
(A) Final Report
(B) Artifact Catalogue
(C) Research Design
(D) Bibliography

142. Which of the following is NOT a form of primary data in archaeology?
(A) A human skeleton excavated from a grave.
(B) The excavator's field notes describing the grave's context.
(C) A photograph of the skeleton in situ.
(D) A chapter in a textbook describing the skeleton.

143. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : The use of ICT in archaeology has made data sharing and collaboration among researchers more difficult.
Statement II : Digital archives, online databases, and collaborative platforms facilitate the rapid exchange of information across geographical boundaries.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

144. In a research paper, the section that describes in detail how the data was collected and analyzed is the:
(A) Introduction
(B) Methodology
(C) Conclusion
(D) Abstract

145. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : A hypothesis is not the same as a theory.
Reason (R) : A hypothesis is a specific, testable prediction, while a theory is a well-substantiated, broad explanation of some aspect of the natural world, often incorporating many confirmed hypotheses.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

146. A chart that shows the percentage distribution of different tool types at a site is a method for the:
(A) Systematic presentation of quantitative data.
(B) Formulation of a research design.
(C) Collection of primary data.
(D) Systematic referencing of sources.

147. The principle of 'Stewardship' in archaeological ethics is most concerned with:
(A) The publication of research findings.
(B) The relationship between the researcher and the funding agency.
(C) The long-term care and preservation of the archaeological record.
(D) The use of ICT in field investigations.

148. Which of the following is a key characteristic of a scientific hypothesis?
(A) It must be provable as an absolute truth.
(B) It must be complex and difficult to understand.
(C) It must be based on the researcher's personal intuition.
(D) It must be falsifiable, i.e., testable in a way that it could be proven wrong.

149. An in-depth investigation of a single individual, group, or event is the definition of:
(A) A longitudinal study
(B) An experimental study
(C) A case study
(D) A correlational study

150. Consider the following activities:
(1) Conducting a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey.

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(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.
(D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

190. What is the main objective of creating a research design before starting a project?
(A) To have a document to show to the media.
(B) To prevent other researchers from working on the same topic.
(C) To provide a detailed script for every action in the field, with no room for change.
(D) To ensure the research process is systematic and targeted toward answers.

191. A key characteristic of research is that it is 'cyclical'. This means:
(A) Problem solutions often lead to new research problems.
(B) The research process goes around in circles with no progress.
(C) The research is repeated every year on the same day.
(D) The researcher must use a circular-shaped trench for excavation.

192. Which of the following is an unacceptable practice according to research ethics?
(A) Publishing results in a peer-reviewed journal.
(B) Failing to obtain permission to excavate on private land.
(C) Acknowledging the work of other scholars through citation.
(D) Archiving data for future research.

193. The first step in developing a hypothesis is often:
(A) The publication of results.
(B) Review of existing literature and observation of a phenomenon.
(C) The collection of all possible data.
(D) The statistical analysis.

194. The information recorded on an artifact bag (site, trench, layer, find number) is crucial primary data related to its:
(A) Context
(B) Monetary value
(C) Aesthetic quality
(D) Age, as determined by a lab

195. The use of a Total Station Theodolite (TST) to record the precise 3D location of artifacts is an example of applying technology for:
(A) Systematic referencing
(B) Writing a research paper
(C) Primary data collection
(D) Creating a secondary source

196. The most appropriate format for presenting the relative frequencies of different animal species found at a site would be a:
(A) Narrative text
(B) Section drawing
(C) Site plan
(D) Bar chart or pie chart

197. Which method of research would be best suited to answer the question: How were Faience beads made in the Harappan period?
(A) Case Study of Harappan sites
(B) Ethno-archaeology in modern India
(C) Experimental archaeology involving process replication
(D) Field survey of bead-making sites

198. The main reason for having a section on 'Methodology' in a research paper is to:
(A) Fill a word count requirement.
(B) Allow for critical evaluation and replication of the research.
(C) Showcase the expensive equipment used.
(D) Discuss the researcher's personal feelings about the project.

199. What does it mean for a research hypothesis to be falsifiable?
(A) It means the hypothesis is definitely false.
(B) It means the hypothesis is weak and poorly constructed.
(C) It means the hypothesis involves fabricating data.
(D) It means observations or experiments could potentially prove it wrong.

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200. A review article that summarizes the current state of research on a specific topic, citing dozens of primary research papers, is a:

with marks created on modern bones using replica stone tools is an example of:
(A) Experimental archaeology
(B) Ethno-archaeology
(C) Case study method
(D) Data presentation

160. Arrange the following data-related activities in the correct research sequence:
(1) Data analysis
(2) Data presentation
(3) Data collection
(4) Data processing
(A) (4), (3), (1), (2)
(B) (3), (4), (1), (2)
(C) (3), (1), (4), (2)
(D) (1), (3), (4), (2)

161. Which of the following is NOT an ethical principle in archaeological research?
(A) Stewardship of the archaeological record.
(B) Commercial exploitation of finds for personal profit.
(C) Accountability to stakeholders.
(D) Dissemination of knowledge.

162. Why is a hypothesis required to be 'testable'?
(A) Because if it cannot be tested, it remains a matter of belief.
(B) So that it sounds more scientific.
(C) To make the research process more difficult.
(D) To ensure the hypothesis is always proven correct.

163. The records of an excavation (context sheets, plans, sections, photos) are considered:
(A) Secondary sources
(B) Tertiary sources
(C) Primary sources
(D) Unimportant by-products

164. What is the function of a 'legend' or 'key' on a map used in an archaeological report?
(A) To provide the name of the archaeologist who drew the map.
(B) To list the references used to create the map.
(C) To show the scale of the map.
(D) To explain the symbols and colors used on the map.

165. Match List I with List II to identify the correct example for each research concept.
List I: (Research Concept)
P. Primary Source
Q. ICT Application
R. Research Ethic
S. Research Method
List II: (Example)
1. Experimental Archaeology
2. A potsherd in its original stratigraphic layer.
3. Obtaining informed consent from a local community.
4. Using GIS for spatial analysis.
Codes:
(A) P-1, Q-2, R-3, S-4
(B) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1
(C) P-3, Q-1, R-4, S-2
(D) P-2, Q-3, R-1, S-4

166. Which of the following is the most defining characteristic of archaeological 'field investigation'?
(A) It is always focused on finding treasure.
(B) It involves the systematic recovery of data and its context.
(C) It is only conducted in remote, uninhabited areas.
(D) It relies exclusively on written texts.

167. In formulating a research design for a regional survey, a 'sampling strategy' is developed. Why?
(A) To make the survey less systematic.
(B) To avoid finding any artifacts.
(C) To focus only on areas that look promising.
(D) To ensure investigated areas represent the entire region.

168. Which of the following is an act of data fabrication?
(A) Inventing radiocarbon dates that support a desired chronology.
(B) Reporting an unexpected result.
(C) Correcting a typo in a data table.
(D) Using a statistical test to analyze data.

169. What is the primary purpose of systematically presenting data in graphical form (e.g., a line graph)?
(A) To fill empty space in a publication.
(B) To hide data that does not fit the hypothesis.

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(C) To make trends or patterns in the data easier to understand.
(D) To prove that the researcher has artistic skills.

170. The following question consists of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer the question by selecting the appropriate option.
Assertion (A) : Archaeologists have an ethical obligation to publish their research findings.
Reason (R) : Because excavation is a destructive process, the information is lost to everyone unless it is made available through publication, fulfilling the archaeologist's responsibility to the public and to the discipline.
(A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is true but R is false.
(D) A is false but R is true.

171. A research project that follows the same group of people or the same sites over a long period is an example of what kind of study?
(A) A cross-sectional study
(B) An experimental study
(C) A theoretical study
(D) A longitudinal study

172. The use of a relational database system (like Microsoft Access or SQL) in archaeology facilitates:
(A) The physical excavation of a site.
(B) The efficient management and analysis of large datasets.
(C) The writing of the final narrative report.
(D) The conservation of metal artifacts.

173. Which of the following represents a clear distinction between a primary and a secondary source?
(A) Primary sources are always written; secondary sources are always objects.
(B) Primary sources are old; secondary sources are new.
(C) Primary sources provide firsthand evidence; secondary sources analyze them.
(D) Primary sources are more reliable; secondary sources are unreliable.

174. The Conclusion chapter of a thesis or monograph should ideally:
(A) Introduce new data not discussed earlier.
(B) Only restate the introduction.
(C) Present all the raw data tables.
(D) Synthesize the findings and relate them to the hypothesis.

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175. Consider the following statements about the characteristics of research:
(1) Research should be systematic and logical.
(2) Research should be based on empirical evidence.
(3) Research should be verifiable or replicable.
(4) Research findings are absolute truths that should never be questioned.
Which of the given statements are correct?
(A) (1), (2) and (3) only
(B) (2), (3) and (4) only
(C) (1) and (4) only
(D) (1), (2), (3) and (4)

176. Which of the following is NOT part of a research design?
(A) The research question.
(B) The final, confirmed answer to the research question.
(C) The methodology for data collection.
(D) A timeline and budget.

177. Observing a traditional potter to understand the techniques that might have been used to create prehistoric pottery is an example of:
(A) Experimental archaeology
(B) Ethno-archaeology
(C) A case study
(D) A field investigation

178. The act of cherry-picking data, i.e., selecting only the data that supports a hypothesis while ignoring contradictory data, is a form of:
(A) Data falsification and a breach of research ethics.
(B) Good research practice.
(C) A valid method of data processing.
(D) An essential part of hypothesis testing.

179. A key advantage of using ICT like GIS in archaeological research is its ability to:
(A) Automatically interpret the meaning of artifacts.
(B) Dig trenches faster than human excavators.
(C) Analyze spatial patterns and relationships on a landscape scale.
(D) Translate ancient languages.

180. Consider the following components of a research publication:
(1) Abstract: a brief summary of the entire paper.
(2) Introduction: states the problem and hypothesis.
(3) Methodology: describes how the research was done.
(4) Results: presents the findings.
(5) Bibliography: lists the sources cited.
Which of the above statements incorrectly describes a component?
(A) (1) is a correct description.
(B) (3) is a correct description.
(C) (5) is a correct description.
(D) (2) is incorrect because the introduction should present the final conclusion.

181. What is the role of a hypothesis in the scientific method?
(A) It is the final answer.
(B) It is a guess that does not need to be tested.
(C) It is a proposed explanation that serves as an investigation starting point.
(D) It is a summary of the results.

182. A biography of a famous archaeologist written by another historian is an example of:
(A) A primary source
(B) A secondary source
(C) ICT
(D) A research design

183. The ethical principle that requires archaeologists to make their findings accessible to as wide an audience as possible is:
(A) Stewardship
(B) Accountability
(C) Commercialization
(D) Public Education and Dissemination

184. The systematic organization of excavated material, such as washing, labeling, and sorting pottery sherds, is part of:
(A) Data processing
(B) Hypothesis formulation
(C) Systematic presentation
(D) Field survey

185. An archaeologist plans a survey in an area with a significant indigenous population. What is the most ethical approach to research design?
(A) Plan the project in secret to avoid interference.
(B) Proceed with the plan and inform the community after the work is done.
(C) Consult with community representatives from the beginning of the project.
(D) Hire community members only for manual labor without involving them.

186. Which of the following is a primary source?
(A) A flint arrowhead recovered from an excavation.
(B) A university lecture on the Neolithic period.
(C) A Wikipedia article on stone tools.
(D) A documentary about early humans.

187. The purpose of using tables and figures in the 'Results' section of a paper is to:
(A) Make the paper longer.
(B) Confuse the reader with complex visuals.
(C) Avoid writing descriptive text.
(D) Present data in a clear and easily understandable format.

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188. A set of moral principles that guide a researcher's conduct throughout the research process is the definition of:
(A) Research methodology
(B) Research ethics
(C) Research design
(D) Research hypothesis

189. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : Case studies are useful for generating detailed, contextualized knowledge.
Statement II : The findings from a single case study can always be generalized to all other similar cases without exception.

(2) Creating a 3D model of an artifact using photogrammetry.
(3) Using a relational database to manage excavation data.
(4) Using reference management software like Zotero.

Which of these are examples of the use of ICT in archaeological research?
(A) (1) and (2) only
(B) (3) and (4) only
(C) (1), (2) and (3) only
(D) (1), (2), (3) and (4)

151. What is the main difference between 'field investigation' and 'experimental archaeology'?
(A) Field investigation is done outdoors; experimental archaeology is done indoors.
(B) Field investigation is scientific; experimental archaeology is not.
(C) There is no difference; the terms are interchangeable.
(D) Field investigations record past data; experimental archaeology replicates processes.

152. In data processing, what is 'classification'?
(A) The grouping of artifacts based on shared attributes (e.g., a pottery typology).
(B) The act of digging up artifacts.
(C) Writing the final report.
(D) Citing sources correctly.

153. An archaeologist finds that her data does not support her initial hypothesis. The ethical course of action is to:
(A) Modify the data to fit the hypothesis.
(B) Discard the data and the project.
(C) Report results honestly and discuss why the hypothesis was not supported.
(D) Keep the negative results secret and only publish parts of the data that seem promising.

154. The final section of a research paper, which summarizes the key findings and discusses their significance, is the:
(A) Conclusion
(B) Introduction
(C) Methodology
(D) Results

155. Identify the correct logical sequence of activities in the research process:
(1) Formulate a research question.
(2) Conduct a literature review on primary and secondary sources.
(3) Develop a research design and methodology.
(4) Collect and process data according to the design.
(5) Present results and conclusions, citing all sources.
(A) (1), (3), (2), (4), (5)
(B) (2), (1), (3), (5), (4)
(C) (3), (1), (2), (4), (5)
(D) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)

156. The use of a bibliography in an academic work demonstrates:
(A) The author's writing skill.
(B) The author's engagement with previous scholarship on the topic.
(C) The author's ability to use a computer.
(D) The author's personal library size.

157. Which of these is a key role of archaeological research?
(A) To provide definitive and final answers to all questions about the past.
(B) To prove that modern society is superior to ancient ones.
(C) To test interpretations of past human life based on material evidence.
(D) To focus only on the study of kings and elites.

158. Identify the correct option regarding the two statements provided below:
Statement I : A research design is created after all the data has been collected.
Statement II : A research design is a plan that guides how data will be collected and analyzed to answer a research question.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false.
(C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.
(D) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

159. The study of butchery marks on animal bones from an archaeological site by comparing them

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(A) Secondary source
(B) Primary source
(C) Research design
(D) Field investigation report

201. Which of the following is a direct violation of the ethical principle of stewardship?
(A) Publishing a paper in a reputable journal.
(B) Using GIS to analyze site distribution.
(C) Failing to properly store artifacts, leading to their decay.
(D) Thanking a funding agency in the acknowledgments.

202. Using a computer program to identify patterns in the chemical composition of thousands of pottery sherds is an example of ICT being used for:
(A) Data analysis
(B) Field survey
(C) Ethical review
(D) Referencing

203. In the systematic presentation of results, what is the primary function of a caption for a figure or table?
(A) To hide the figure or table from view.
(B) To list the author's name repeatedly.
(C) To add decorative text to the page.
(D) To provide a brief, clear explanation of the graphic content.

204. Research is a process of enquiry and investigation; it is systematic, methodical and ethical; research can help solve practical problems and increase knowledge. This statement best describes the:
(A) Methods of systematic referencing
(B) Role and characteristics of research
(C) Use of ICT in research
(D) Process of hypothesis formulation

205. Which of the following is a key element of a research design?
(A) The final conclusion of the study.
(B) The full text of the final publication.
(C) The definition of the research problem and objectives.
(D) A list of all museums where artifacts will be displayed.

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206. An in-depth, multi-year study of the organization and material culture of a single archaeological site, such as Farmana, is an example of:
(A) An experiment
(B) A secondary source review
(C) A theoretical paper
(D) A case study

207. A researcher analyzing rock art makes a new interpretation. The rock art itself is the primary source, while the researcher's published paper is a:
(A) Secondary source
(B) Primary source
(C) Research ethic
(D) Research method

208. The principle of 'accountability' in research ethics means a researcher is answerable to:
(A) Only their own conscience.
(B) The scholarly community, descendant communities, and the public.
(C) Only their university.
(D) Only the person who discovered the site.

209. A hypothesis stating there is no significant difference in the average size of handaxes between Site A and Site B is an example of a:
(A) Alternative hypothesis
(B) Null hypothesis
(C) Proven theory
(D) Research question

210. What is the role of a bibliography in a research report?
(A) To provide a list of all sources consulted and cited by the author.
(B) To list the names of the excavation team.
(C) To function as a table of contents.
(D) To summarize the main arguments of the paper.

211. The logical sequence that research follows, from a problem to a conclusion, is part of its _____ characteristic.
(A) Empirical
(B) Replicable
(C) Systematic
(D) Cyclical

In archaeological research, data is categorized into primary and secondary sources, a distinction crucial for understanding the structure of archaeological arguments. Primary sources constitute the raw, firsthand evidence from the past. These are the materials directly recovered and documented through archaeological fieldwork. The most common examples include artifacts (portable objects made or modified by humans, like pottery or tools), ecofacts (natural objects that have cultural relevance, such as plant remains or animal bones from a midden), features (non-portable human-made structures like hearths, walls, or postholes), and the associated contextual records (field notes, maps, photographs, and stratigraphic drawings). These sources are the empirical foundation upon which all interpretations are built. Secondary sources, in contrast, are at least one step removed from the original evidence. They consist of the interpretation, synthesis, or analysis of primary sources. Examples include journal articles, academic books, conference papers, and doctoral theses where researchers present their arguments about the past based on their or others' analysis of primary data. While indispensable for staying abreast of current research and theoretical debates, secondary sources must be used critically, as they inherently reflect the author's theoretical perspective, potential biases, and the state of knowledge at the time of writing.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

266. According to the text, what is a defining characteristic of a primary source in archaeology?
- A It is always written in an ancient language.
- B It is firsthand evidence recovered directly through fieldwork.
- C It is a researcher's interpretation of an artifact.
- D It is published in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

267. Which of the following would be classified as a primary source based on the paragraph's definitions?
- A A textbook chapter summarizing the Indus Valley Civilization.
- B A set of stratigraphic drawings from an excavation trench.
- C A museum's website discussing a famous artifact.
- D A documentary film about archaeological methods.

268. The paragraph identifies ecofacts as:
- A Natural objects that have cultural relevance.
- B Any non-portable human-made structure.
- C Portable objects modified by humans.
- D Interpretations of environmental data.

269. Why does the text advise critical use of secondary sources?
- A Because they are often inaccurate and poorly researched.
- B Because they contain raw data without any interpretation.
- C Because they reflect the author's specific interpretations and potential biases.
- D Because they are less accessible than primary sources.

270. Based on the passage, what is the fundamental relationship between primary and secondary sources in archaeology?
- A Secondary sources are used to create primary sources.
- B They are independent founders of evidence with no connection.
- C Primary sources are considered less reliable than secondary sources.
- D Secondary sources are analyses and interpretations built upon primary sources.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The collection of archaeological data is fundamentally accomplished through two interrelated approaches: field investigations and case studies. Field investigation is the quintessential method for generating new primary data and is most commonly associated with survey and excavation. Archaeological survey involves systematically searching a landscape to identify, map, and record sites and features, often without intrusive digging. This provides crucial information on settlement patterns, site distribution, and land use over a large area. Excavation, a more intensive and destructive process, involves the careful and controlled

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(A) Data are raw facts, while information is interpreted data.
(B) There is no difference.
(C) Data is numerical, while information is textual.
(D) Data comes from primary sources, while information comes from secondary sources.

224. Which of the following tools is an example of ICT used in the data collection phase of a field investigation?
(A) A trowel
(B) A hand-held GPS unit
(C) A reference book
(D) A soil sieve

225. A bibliography formatted according to a specific style (e.g., Chicago, APA) is a core component of:
(A) Field investigation
(B) Systematic referencing
(C) Data processing
(D) Hypothesis formulation

226. What does it mean for research to be 'empirical'?
(A) It is based on observable and measurable evidence.
(B) It is based on a logical argument.
(C) It is based on the authority of the researcher.
(D) It is based on a popular vote.

227. An archaeologist replicating ancient bronze casting techniques to understand fuel consumption and temperature control is conducting:
(A) A case study
(B) An ethno-archaeological study
(C) An experimental archaeological study
(D) A field survey

228. Intellectual honesty is a core principle of research ethics. It means:
(A) Being intelligent enough to conduct research.
(B) Only studying the history of ideas.
(C) Keeping your best ideas to yourself.
(D) Being truthful in all aspects of research and reporting.

229. Which section of a research report would contain the maps, graphs, and tables showing the analyzed data?
(A) Introduction
(B) Abstract
(C) Results/Findings
(D) Bibliography

230. A research design is best described as a:
(A) Conclusion
(B) Blueprint
(C) Result
(D) Theory

231. An Ashokan inscription on a rock is a classic example of what type of source for a historian or archaeologist?
(A) Secondary source
(B) Tertiary source
(C) ICT tool
(D) Primary source

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232. The process of using software to correct for distortions in aerial photographs before using them for mapping is part of:
(A) Data processing
(B) Hypothesis formulation
(C) Ethical review
(D) Final publication

233. The 'discussion' section of a research paper, often combined with the conclusion, serves to:
(A) Introduce the topic for the first time.
(B) List the references.
(C) Interpret results and explain their general significance.
(D) Show pictures of the research team.

234. Which of the following is a violation of research ethics?
(A) Ignoring evidence that contradicts one's preferred theory.
(B) Archiving data for future use.
(C) Publishing negative results that disprove a hypothesis.
(D) Obtaining proper permits before excavation.

235. The very first step in undertaking any archaeological research project is:

C Documenting methods transparently for others to evaluate.
D Only using methods that can be perfectly repeated in a laboratory.

254. Which of the following is presented as a crucial ethical responsibility in archaeological research?
A Ensuring the financial profitability of an excavation.
B Prioritizing the interests of researchers over local communities.
C Keeping all research findings confidential.
D Preserving the finite archaeological record for future generations.

255. Based on the text, how are the scientific methodology and ethical framework of archaeology related?
A They are opposing forces that create conflict in research.
B The ethical framework is secondary to the scientific method.
C They are integrated components of a single, responsible research process.
D The scientific method is only applied when ethical concerns are absent.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The formulation of a research design is a critical preliminary step in any systematic archaeological investigation. A research design serves as a strategic blueprint, outlining the entire course of the research from its inception to its conclusion. It begins with the articulation of a clear and focused research question, which addresses a specific gap in existing knowledge. From this question, a testable hypothesis is formulated, which is a provisional statement proposing a relationship between variables that can be empirically evaluated. The research design then details the specific methodology that will be employed to test this hypothesis. This includes defining the study area, outlining the sampling strategy for surveys or excavations, and specifying the techniques for data collection, such as excavation methods, artifact recovery procedures, and recording systems. Furthermore, a comprehensive research design anticipates the subsequent stages of research, including the plan for data processing, analysis, and interpretation. It also incorporates logistical considerations, such as budget, timeline, and necessary permissions. By compelling the researcher to think through and justify each step of the investigation in advance, the research design ensures that the research is structured, efficient, and goal-oriented, maximizing the potential for meaningful results while minimizing the destructive impact of fieldwork.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

256. What is the primary function of a research design in archaeology as described in the paragraph?
A To serve as a detailed record of completed fieldwork.
B To act as a strategic plan for the entire research project.
C To be a proposal for securing funding and little else.
D To list all the artifacts expected to be found at a site.

257. According to the text, the very first step in creating a research design is:
A Formulating a testable hypothesis.
B Outlining a sampling strategy.
C Planning the budget and timeline.
D Articulating a clear research question.

258. The relationship between a research question and a hypothesis in a research design is best described as:
A The hypothesis is a provisional answer to the research question.
B The question and hypothesis are interchangeable terms.
C The research question is formulated to test the hypothesis.
D The hypothesis is a summary of the final research results.

259. Which of the following elements is NOT explicitly mentioned as part of the methodology detailed in a research design?
A Sampling strategy.
B Data collection techniques.
C The final conclusions of the study.

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(D) To list all the possible problems that might occur.

247. A study of how a modern pastoralist group in Rajasthan moves across the landscape to inform models of prehistoric pastoral mobility is an example of:
(A) Experimental archaeology
(B) A case study
(C) Textual analysis
(D) Ethno-archaeology

248. The practice of creating a detailed bibliography is essential for avoiding:
(A) Plagiarism
(B) Data fabrication
(C) Fieldwork
(D) Hypothesis formulation

249. Which of the following is an example of processing raw archaeological data?
(A) Discovering a new site.
(B) Publishing a book.
(C) Washing, sorting, and cataloging pottery sherds.
(D) Formulating a research question.

250. The ultimate goal of the systematic presentation of archaeological research is to:
(A) Contribute to the body of knowledge about the human past.
(B) Win awards for graphic design.
(C) Secure funding for the next project.
(D) Prove that the researcher is the foremost expert in their field.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Archaeological research is a systematic and disciplined inquiry aimed at understanding the human past through its material remains. The fundamental role of this research is not merely to collect ancient objects but to reconstruct past lifeways, social structures, and cultural processes. Its core characteristics are rooted in scientific methodology, demanding that investigations be empirical, logical, and replicable. Empiricism dictates that conclusions must be based on observable and verifiable evidence, such as artifacts, ecofacts, and features discovered through fieldwork. The logical component requires that interpretations and arguments flow coherently from the evidence, avoiding speculation that cannot be substantiated. Replicability, while challenging in a discipline where experiments cannot be perfectly repeated, implies that the methods of data collection and analysis must be transparently documented so that other researchers can evaluate, and potentially challenge, the process. Integral to this entire endeavor is the principle of research ethics. This involves a profound responsibility towards the preservation of the archaeological record, which is a finite and non-renewable resource, as well as ethical obligations to descendant communities, local stakeholders, and the public. Therefore, modern archaeological research is a multifaceted process that combines rigorous scientific method with a strong ethical framework to responsibly build knowledge about our shared human heritage.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

251. According to the paragraph, what is the primary purpose of archaeological research?
A To amass collections of valuable ancient artifacts.
B To reconstruct past human behaviours and societal patterns.
C To exclusively focus on the aesthetic qualities of material remains.
D To prove pre-conceived theories about ancient civilizations.

252. The characteristic of 'empiricism' in archaeological research, as described in the text, most closely means that conclusions must be based on:
A Observable and verifiable material evidence.
B The most popular existing theories.
C Speculative and imaginative interpretations.
D The consensus of senior archaeologists.

253. The paragraph suggests that 'replicability' in archaeology is challenging but is addressed by:
A Ensuring all excavations yield identical results.
B Re-excavating sites multiple times to confirm findings.

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212. In the context of archaeological research, what does 'methodology' refer to?
(A) The specific tools used for digging.
(B) The history of archaeological thought.
(C) The process of displaying artifacts in a museum.
(D) The theoretical framework and principles guiding research methods.

213. When planning a 'field investigation', what is the purpose of a preliminary site visit or reconnaissance?
(A) To collect all the artifacts before the main project begins.
(B) To hold a press conference announcing the project.
(C) To assess logistics and site condition for the research design.
(D) To finalize the conclusions of the research.

214. The use of digital tools like Computer-Aided Design (CAD) for drawing site plans and section drawings is an application of ICT in:
(A) Hypothesis formulation.
(B) Data processing and presentation.
(C) Ethical decision making.
(D) Experimental archaeology.

215. A scholar who fails to cite the sources of their ideas and data is guilty of:
(A) Fabrication
(B) Falsification
(C) Good referencing
(D) Plagiarism

216. A table presenting radiocarbon dates with their lab numbers, calibrated ranges, and contextual information is a form of:
(A) Systematic presentation of primary data
(B) Hypothesis formulation
(C) Research ethics
(D) Secondary source analysis

217. Which of the following is NOT a legitimate method of archaeological research?
(A) Ethno-archaeology
(B) Experimental archaeology
(C) Guesswork without evidence
(D) Case study analysis

218. An oral history interview with a village elder about traditional land use practices, used to help locate ancient settlements, would be considered:
(A) A primary data source for ethno-archaeological research
(B) A secondary source
(C) A form of ICT
(D) A violation of research ethics

219. A research design must be developed before fieldwork begins because:
(A) It is a government requirement for all travel.
(B) It impresses the local community.
(C) It is a tradition with no practical purpose.
(D) It ensures that data collection is structured and efficient.

220. The conclusion of a research paper should avoid:
(A) Summarizing the main findings.
(B) Introducing significant new evidence for the first time.
(C) Suggesting areas for future research.
(D) Relating the findings back to the original hypothesis.

221. Which of the following is an ethical requirement for an archaeologist?
(A) To keep all discoveries secret.
(B) To sell artifacts to fund their lifestyle.
(C) To ensure proper curation and conservation of artifacts and records.
(D) To prioritize their own interpretations over the evidence.

222. The statement, The goal of this research is to determine the function of microliths at site X by analyzing use-wear and residue, is an example of a:
(A) Final conclusion.
(B) Secondary source.
(C) Method of referencing.
(D) Research objective, a key part of a research design.

223. What is the fundamental difference between data and information in the context of research?

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D Definition of the study area.

260. The paragraph suggests that a key benefit of a well-formulated research design is:
A Making research more efficient and goal-oriented.
B Guaranteeing the discovery of significant artifacts.
C Eliminating the need for any fieldwork.
D Allowing for spontaneous and unstructured excavation.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

A hypothesis is a cornerstone of modern, problem-oriented archaeological research, serving as the critical link between a research question and the collection of data. Far from being a random guess, a hypothesis is a specific, provisional, and, most importantly, testable statement about the past. It proposes a potential explanation for an observed phenomenon or a relationship between different variables, grounded in existing knowledge and theoretical frameworks. For a hypothesis to be scientifically valid, it must be falsifiable; that is, it must be possible to conceive of evidence that would disprove it. This principle of falsifiability is what distinguishes scientific inquiry from mere speculation. For example, a hypothesis might state, The shift in settlement patterns in the X valley during the Late Bronze Age was caused by a change in subsistence strategy from hunting to agriculture. This proposition guides the research design: the archaeologist must now seek specific data—such as palaeobotanical remains, changes in tool assemblages, and faunal analysis—that could either support or refute this claim. The hypothesis thus dictates the type of evidence to be collected and provides a clear framework for its analysis and interpretation, transforming archaeological fieldwork from a simple treasure hunt into a focused scientific investigation aimed at answering specific questions.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

261. What is the primary role of a hypothesis in archaeological research according to the text?
A To provide a definitive and final explanation of the past.
B To summarize all the data found at an archaeological site.
C To be a random guess about what might be discovered.
D To act as a testable proposition that guides data collection.

262. The paragraph emphasizes that a scientifically valid hypothesis must be:
A Unquestionable.
B Falsifiable.
C Universally accepted.
D Broad and general.

263. Based on the provided example, what is the function of a hypothesis like the shift in settlement patterns...was caused by a change in subsistence strategy?
A It proves that agriculture replaced hunting.
B It confirms the exact dates of the Late Bronze Age.
C It directs the archaeologist to look for specific types of evidence.
D It eliminates the need for any further fieldwork.

264. The principle of 'falsifiability' implies that:
A A hypothesis should be designed so it can never be proven wrong.
B The research must aim to prove the hypothesis is false.
C All archaeological hypotheses are ultimately proven to be false.
D It must be possible to find evidence that could contradict the hypothesis.

265. How does the use of a hypothesis change the nature of archaeological fieldwork?
A It transforms fieldwork into a focused scientific investigation.
B It makes fieldwork unnecessary by relying on existing knowledge.
C It limits the scope of research to only previously studied areas.
D It makes the process more subjective and based on speculation.

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(A) Immediately starting excavation.
(B) Publishing the results.
(C) Buying equipment.
(D) Identifying a research problem or question.

236. A detailed analysis of the settlement pattern in the Ghaggar-Hakra river basin would be an example of a:
(A) Controlled experiment.
(B) Regional case study.
(C) Small-scale ethno-archaeological project.
(D) Method of referencing.

237. When an archaeologist uses data from another researcher's published excavation report, they are using a:
(A) Primary source for themselves, a secondary source in general.
(B) Primary source.
(C) Secondary source.
(D) Falsified source.

238. What role does ICT play in the 'systematic presentation of data'?
(A) It plays no role; presentations must be hand-drawn.
(B) Its only role is to check for spelling errors.
(C) It is used to generate false data for presentation.
(D) It provides software for high-quality charts and reports.

239. The main purpose of a 'methods' section in a research paper is:
(A) To demonstrate transparency and allow for replicability.
(B) To list the names of the research team.
(C) To thank the funding agencies.
(D) To provide a summary of the paper.

240. The deposition of cultural layer C occurred after layer D but before layer B. This statement is a conclusion derived from a:
(A) Research ethic
(B) Stratigraphic analysis during data processing
(C) Hypothesis
(D) Secondary source

241. A fundamental characteristic of archaeological research is that it is primarily concerned with:
(A) The study of human biological evolution.
(B) The study of past societies through their material remains.
(C) The interpretation of written texts from the past.
(D) The creation of art inspired by ancient cultures.

242. Which of the following best defines a 'case study'?
(A) An in-depth, intensive investigation of a single unit or instance.
(B) A statistical analysis of a large population.
(C) An experiment to test a universal law.
(D) A review of literature on a broad topic.

243. The first draft of a site report, including hand-drawn plans and artifact lists, constitutes what kind of data?
(A) Secondary data
(B) Processed data
(C) Primary data
(D) Published data

244. Using a 'spell-checker' and 'grammar-checker' in a word processing program is a basic application of ICT in which stage of research?
(A) Data collection
(B) Hypothesis formulation
(C) Field investigation
(D) Systematic presentation of results

245. An ethical researcher who discovers their initial hypothesis is wrong will:
(A) Change the data to support the hypothesis.
(B) Abandon the project and hide the results.
(C) Acknowledge the result and revise their understanding.
(D) Blame the equipment for faulty readings.

246. What is the primary function of a research design?
(A) To act as a rigid and unchangeable law.
(B) To provide a structured framework linking research questions to execution.
(C) To be the final published output of the research.

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removal of soil and deposits to uncover buried material remains, features, and their stratigraphic relationships. It provides detailed, high-resolution data about a specific location. In contrast, a case study is a method of research that involves an in-depth, detailed examination of a single instance or event, which in archaeology could be a particular site, a specific class of artifacts, or a unique cultural phenomenon. While a case study might involve new field investigations, it often relies heavily on the intensive analysis of existing primary and secondary sources. For example, a researcher might conduct a case study on the trade networks of a specific Harappan city by re-analyzing previously excavated collections and published reports. Thus, while field investigations create new data sets, case studies excel at providing deep, contextualized understanding by intensively focusing analytical attention.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

271. What is the primary distinction made between field investigation and a case study in the paragraph?
- A Field investigation is modern, while case studies are an outdated method.
- B Field investigation focuses on artifacts, while case studies focus only on ecofacts.
- C Field investigation primarily generates new data, while case studies often intensively analyze existing data.
- D Field investigation is always non-destructive, whereas case studies are always destructive.

272. As described in the text, archaeological survey is a method that typically:
- A Involves the deep and intensive excavation of a single structure.
- B Systematically searches a landscape without major digging.
- C Focuses only on re-analyzing museum collections.
- D Is used to study written historical documents.

273. The paragraph describes excavation as a 'destructive process' because:
- A It suggests the process is careless and unscientific.
- B It means that all artifacts found are broken during their removal.
- C It is a term used for looting rather than for scientific research.
- D It implies that the physical context of the site is permanently removed during investigation.

274. A researcher re-analyzing all published reports and excavated pottery from a single Harappan site to understand its social structure is an example of:
- A A case study.
- B An archaeological survey.
- C A preliminary field investigation.
- D The creation of secondary sources.

275. According to the paragraph, what kind of information is archaeological survey particularly useful for providing?
- A The exact age of a single artifact.
- B High-resolution detail about a single household.
- C Information on settlement patterns over a large area.
- D The internal stratigraphy of a deep mound.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has profoundly transformed the methodology of archaeological research, enhancing nearly every stage of the process from data collection to dissemination. In field investigations, ICT provides powerful tools for documentation and mapping. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have become indispensable for managing spatial data, allowing archaeologists to map site distributions, analyze settlement patterns, and model ancient landscapes with unprecedented precision. The use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) ensures accurate location data for sites, features, and even individual artifacts. For recording, digital photography and videography have replaced older methods, while 3D scanning technologies, such as photogrammetry and laser scanning, enable the creation of highly detailed and accurate virtual models of artifacts, features, and entire sites. In the data processing phase, ICT facilitates the management of vast datasets

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through specialized archaeological databases. These systems allow for efficient cataloging, querying, and linking of diverse data types. Furthermore, statistical software packages enable sophisticated quantitative analysis of artifact assemblages or survey data, helping to identify patterns that might be invisible to the naked eye. This digital revolution has not only increased the efficiency and accuracy of archaeological work but has also opened up new avenues for analysis, visualization, and collaboration.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

276. What is the main theme of the paragraph?
- A The significant impact of ICT on archaeological methodology.
- B The high cost and complexity of modern archaeology.
- C The decline of traditional fieldwork methods.
- D The exclusive use of ICT for public outreach.

277. According to the text, what is a primary function of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in archaeology?
- A To exclusively analyze the chemical composition of pottery.
- B To translate ancient written languages.
- C To securely store researchers' personal files.
- D To manage and analyze spatial data like site distributions.

278. The use of 3D scanning technologies like photogrammetry is mentioned as a way to:
- A Determine the absolute date of an artifact.
- B Create detailed virtual models of artifacts and sites.
- C Excavate a site without any physical digging.
- D Communicate directly with other researchers in the field.

279. How does ICT assist in the data processing phase of archaeological research?
- A By automatically writing the final research report.
- B By physically cleaning and conservation artifacts.
- C By facilitating the management of large datasets in databases.
- D By eliminating the need for any data analysis.

280. Which of the following is an implied benefit of using ICT in archaeology, according to the paragraph?
- A It reduces the need for ethical considerations.
- B It makes archaeological research accessible to people without training.
- C It guarantees the discovery of treasure at every site.
- D It allows for more sophisticated and precise analysis of data.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

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Research ethics in archaeology constitute a foundational pillar of the discipline, guiding the professional conduct of researchers and ensuring the responsible stewardship of cultural heritage. These ethics are not a monolithic code but a complex set of obligations owed to various stakeholders. The foremost responsibility is to the archaeological record itself. As a finite, non-renewable resource, every act of investigation, particularly excavation, leads to its partial destruction. Therefore, researchers have an ethical imperative to use the most rigorous methods possible and to ensure that all data is meticulously recorded, analyzed, and made accessible for future scholarship. A second critical obligation is to the communities connected to the heritage being studied, often referred to as descendant or stakeholder communities. This involves respectful consultation, collaboration, and sensitivity to local values and beliefs regarding their past. It mandates moving beyond a purely extractive model of research to one that is more inclusive and equitable. A third responsibility is to the public, which involves the timely and accessible dissemination of research findings to contribute to public education and appreciation of the past. Finally, archaeologists have an ethical duty to their professional colleagues, which includes accurate and honest reporting of methods and results, giving due credit for intellectual contributions, and maintaining a high standard of professional integrity.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

281. What does the paragraph identify as the foremost ethical responsibility of an archaeologist?
- A The responsibility towards the archaeological record itself.
- B The obligation to publish findings quickly.
- C The duty to secure the most funding.
- D The obligation to descendant communities.

282. The text describes the archaeological record as a 'finite, non-renewable resource' to emphasize that:
- A There are very few archaeological sites left in the world.
- B Once a site is excavated, its original context is destroyed forever.
- C Artifacts should not be removed from their country of origin.
- D Only a limited number of people are allowed to be archaeologists.

283. The ethical obligation towards descendant communities, as outlined in the text, involves:
- A Ignoring local beliefs in favor of scientific facts.
- B Engaging in respectful consultation and collaboration.
- C Allowing local communities to conduct the excavation themselves.
- D Paying the community for access to archaeological sites.

284. Disseminating research findings to the public is presented as an ethical duty in order to:
- A Contribute to public education and appreciation of the past.
- B Increase the fame of the individual researcher.
- C Fulfill a requirement for academic promotion.
- D Attract tourists to excavation sites.

285. Which of the following actions would be a violation of the ethical duty to professional colleagues mentioned in the text?
- A Publishing research in a non-academic magazine.
- B Using a different referencing style than a colleague.
- C Failing to credit a collaborator's contribution in a publication.
- D Disagreeing with a colleague's interpretation of data.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Systematic referencing is a non-negotiable component of scholarly communication in archaeology, underpinning the credibility and integrity of any research publication. Its primary function is to meticulously document the sources of information, ideas, and data that have been used in the formulation of an argument. This practice serves several critical purposes. Firstly, it constitutes a fundamental ethical obligation to acknowledge the intellectual contributions of other researchers, thereby avoiding plagiarism, which is the uncredited use of another's work. Secondly, systematic referencing provides a transparent 'audit trail' for the reader. By citing sources accurately and consistently, the author enables other scholars to locate the original material, verify the evidence being presented, and evaluate the validity of the interpretations being made. This verifiability is a cornerstone of the scientific process. Thirdly, citations situate a new piece of research within the existing body of academic literature, demonstrating how it builds upon, challenges, or contributes to ongoing scholarly conversations. While specific citation formats or styles may vary between journals and institutions (e.g., Harvard, Chicago, APA), the underlying principle remains the same: every claim or piece of information not originating from the author's own direct research must be clearly and systematically attributed to its source. The lack of proper referencing fundamentally undermines the scholarly value of a research output.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

286. According to the paragraph, what is the primary ethical reason for systematic referencing?
- A To make the document appear more academic.
- B To increase the word count of the research paper.
- C To ensure the formatting is consistent with journal requirements.
- D To acknowledge the intellectual contributions of others and avoid plagiarism.

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and accuracy of identifying potential areas for investigation.

8. (A) It is an optional component that can be omitted to save space.

Systematic referencing is a mandatory requirement for maintaining academic integrity and scholarly standards. It provides a clear trail that allows readers to verify the evidence and locate the original sources used in a study. Referencing also acknowledges the intellectual contributions of other authors, preventing plagiarism. Far from being optional, it demonstrates the researcher's thoroughness and situates the new work within the existing body of knowledge.

9. (C) (1), (2) and (3) only

Effective data presentation in archaeology relies on using appropriate visual and organizational tools. Tables are ideal for displaying precise numerical values clearly, while graphs and charts are better suited for illustrating trends and comparative relationships. For these tools to be useful, they must include descriptive titles and accurately labeled axes. Conversely, raw data is typically placed in appendices to keep the main text focused on analysis.

10. (A) To construct and test narratives about the human past using evidence.

The fundamental role of archaeological research is to reconstruct and analyze the lives of past human societies. This involves more than just collecting objects; it requires the development of evidence-based narratives that explain cultural changes and behaviors. Researchers use material remains to test theories and refine our understanding of history. This scientific process ensures that interpretations of the past are grounded in empirical data rather than speculation.

11. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

Plagiarism is universally recognized as a major ethical violation in academic and archaeological research. It occurs when an individual uses the work, ideas, or language of another person without providing proper attribution or acknowledgment. This deceptive practice undermines the principles of intellectual honesty and transparency. Maintaining high ethical standards requires researchers to clearly credit all sources, ensuring that the origins of all information are accurately represented.

12. (A) (5), (2), (1), (4), (3)

The archaeological research process follows a logical and chronological sequence to ensure scientific rigor. It begins with identifying a specific research problem, which leads to the formulation of a testable hypothesis. Once the objectives are set, fieldwork is conducted to collect data. This raw information is then processed and analyzed to test the hypothesis. Finally, the findings are organized and presented systematically to the scholarly community.

13. (C) A hypothesis determines the specific data needed for testing.

A hypothesis acts as a functional guide that directs the entire data collection process in archaeological research. By proposing a specific relationship or explanation, it helps researchers identify which types of evidence are necessary to evaluate the claim. This ensures that field and laboratory work remain focused and purposeful. Without a hypothesis, data collection would lack direction, making it difficult to draw meaningful and scientifically valid conclusions.

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14. (D) Primary Source: Field notes and drawings from an excavation.

Primary sources in archaeology consist of original evidence and direct records created at the time of an event or discovery. Field notes, sketches, and photographs made during an excavation are essential primary documents because they provide an immediate, unmediated record of the findings and their context. In contrast, textbooks and monographs are secondary sources because they involve later interpretations and syntheses of data originally recorded by others.

15. (B) P-2, Q-1, R-4, S-3

Modern archaeology utilizes various Information and Communication Technology tools for specialized applications. LiDAR is used to map features hidden under vegetation, while photogrammetry creates detailed three-dimensional models from photographs. Relational databases are essential for managing and querying massive datasets efficiently.

A Excavation.
B Initial data collection.
C Systematic referencing.
D Classification and typology.

294. The paragraph mentions the Harris Matrix as a tool used for:
A Cataloging individual small finds.
B Organizing and synthesizing stratigraphic data.
C Visualizing the monetary budget of the project.
D Classifying different types of stone tools.

295. How does the paragraph describe the relationship between data processing and data analysis?
A Data processing and analysis are the same thing.
B Data analysis must be completed before data processing can begin.
C Data processing creates the organized dataset required for analysis.
D Data processing is an optional step that can be skipped before analysis.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

The final and arguably most crucial stage of the archaeological research cycle is the systematic presentation of data and results. The knowledge generated through fieldwork and analysis has little value until it is effectively communicated to both the academic community and the wider public. This process goes far beyond a simple summary of activities; it requires a structured and transparent exposition of the entire research project. A systematic presentation typically begins by restating the original research question and hypothesis, followed by a detailed account of the methodology employed. The core of the presentation involves the clear and logical display of the processed data. This is rarely achieved through text alone. Effective communication relies on the integration of various visual aids, such as tables to present quantitative data, graphs to show trends, maps to illustrate spatial relationships, and high-quality photographs and line drawings to depict artifacts and features. Following the presentation of data, the researcher must provide an interpretation, explaining what the data means and how it relates back to the initial hypothesis. This discussion should address whether the hypothesis was supported, refuted, or needs modification. Finally, the results must be situated within a broader context, discussing their implications for the wider field of archaeology and suggesting avenues for future research. Clarity, objectivity, and logical structure are paramount for ensuring the research makes a lasting contribution to the discipline.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

296. What is the central argument of the paragraph regarding the presentation of research results?
A The presentation of results is less important than the fieldwork itself.
B The primary audience for all archaeological results is the general public, not academics.
C A simple summary of activities is sufficient for a research report.
D Research is incomplete and of little value until its findings are effectively communicated.

297. According to the text, why are visual aids like tables, graphs, and maps important in presenting data?
A They help to communicate quantitative and spatial information more clearly than text alone.
B They are a mandatory requirement for all publications, regardless of content.
C They are used to fill space when the written text is too short.
D They make the report look more artistic and appealing.

298. The interpretation phase of the presentation involves:
A Presenting the raw data without any explanation.
B Explaining what the data means in relation to the research hypothesis.
C Listing all the references used in the project.
D Describing only the artifacts that were found.

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23. (D) Experimental Archaeology

Experimental archaeology involves the practical replication of past technologies and behaviors to understand how they functioned. By creating and using stone tool replicas to perform specific tasks, researchers can observe resulting wear patterns. This empirical evidence is then compared with ancient artifacts to make informed inferences about their original use. This method allows archaeologists to test theories about manufacturing processes and daily life in antiquity through direct, controlled physical experimentation.

24. (A) Selling duplicate or unimportant artifacts to fund further research.

Archaeologists have a strict ethical obligation to protect the archaeological record as a non-renewable public resource. Selling artifacts is universally considered unethical as it encourages the commercialization of heritage and leads to site destruction. Legitimate ethical responsibilities include ensuring the long-term conservation of finds, respecting descendant communities, and disseminating research findings to the public. Treating artifacts as commercial commodities undermines the scientific and cultural value of archaeological heritage for future generations.

25. (B) (3) and (4) only

In the scientific process, a hypothesis is a tentative and testable explanation proposed at the beginning of an investigation. It is not a proven fact, but rather a starting point for research. Scientists conduct systematic investigations to gather empirical evidence that will either support or refute the hypothesis. A good hypothesis should be clear and testable through observation or experimentation, providing a structured way to address specific research questions or problems.

26. (A) Remote sensing in field investigation

The use of satellite imagery to identify archaeological features is a primary application of remote sensing technology. This non-invasive Information and Communication Technology tool allows researchers to detect large-scale patterns, such as ancient road systems or field boundaries, from a distance. By analyzing these images, archaeologists can identify potential sites and plan more effective field investigations. Remote sensing significantly enhances the ability to study landscapes without immediately disturbing the physical archaeological record.

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27. (D) Acknowledging intellectual debt and enabling verification.

Creating a bibliography is a critical aspect of academic writing that serves two primary purposes. First, it acknowledges the intellectual contributions of previous scholars whose work has informed the current study. Second, it provides a clear list of sources that allows readers to verify the evidence and explore the topic further. This practice ensures transparency and maintains the integrity of the research by clearly distinguishing the author's original ideas from existing scholarship.

28. (B) A section drawing or Harris Matrix

Effectively communicating the complex stratigraphic relationships found in an excavation requires specialized visual tools. A section drawing provides a detailed vertical representation of the different soil layers and features observed in a trench wall. Alternatively, a Harris Matrix uses a standardized diagram to illustrate the chronological sequence and relationships between various archaeological units. These methods are far more effective than simple lists or narrative descriptions for providing a clear, logical overview of stratigraphy.

29. (C) Ethno-archaeology

Ethno-archaeology is a research method that involves the study of modern, living communities to better understand the archaeological record. By observing how people today use space, organize their social structures, and discard material remains, researchers can develop analogies for interpreting past behaviors. This approach helps archaeologists build more realistic models of how prehistoric societies may have functioned. It bridges the gap between the static material remains of the past and the dynamic human actions.

30. (B) P-4, Q-3, R-2, S-1

Ethical principles guide the conduct of professional archaeologists in several key areas. Stewardship involves the responsible long-term management

ANSWER

1. (B) To provide a systematic framework for research and ensure valid conclusions.

   Methodology in archaeological research establishes the structured approach necessary for investigating the past. It encompasses the principles and procedures that guide scientists in gathering and interpreting evidence. By employing a systematic framework, researchers can minimize bias and maintain consistency throughout the study. This disciplined process is essential for verifying data and ensuring that the final interpretations are logically sound and academically valid.

2. (A) It is cyclical, starting with a problem and ending with its solution.

   Academic research in archaeology is defined by its repetitive and evolving nature. The process typically begins with the identification of a specific research problem or question. As data is collected, analyzed, and interpreted, new insights often lead to further inquiries. This creates a continuous cycle where the resolution of one problem frequently serves as the foundation for identifying subsequent questions for investigation.

3. (A) P-2, Q-4, R-1, S-3

   Archaeological research methods are distinct in their approaches and objectives. A case study involves the intensive examination of a single entity, while field investigation focuses on systematic site surveys and excavations. Experimental archaeology centers on replicating ancient technologies to understand past processes. Ethno-archaeology involves studying contemporary living communities to draw meaningful analogies for past human behaviors, allowing for a multifaceted understanding of antiquity.

4. (D) Informing descendant communities and stakeholders to obtain their permission.

   Informed consent is a fundamental ethical requirement in modern archaeology, emphasizing transparency and respect for heritage. It involves actively engaging with descendant communities and other stakeholders who have a direct connection to the archaeological remains being studied. By providing comprehensive information about the project goals and methods, researchers seek formal permission. This collaborative approach ensures that the interests and cultural sensitivities of these groups are respected.

NODIA

5. (C) To provide a final, unchangeable explanation of a phenomenon.

   A research hypothesis serves as a tentative and testable proposal used to guide archaeological investigations. It provides a specific direction for data collection and helps researchers analyze relationships between variables. However, a hypothesis is never intended to be an absolute or unchangeable truth. In scientific inquiry, explanations remain open to revision or rejection as new evidence and more refined analytical techniques become available.

6. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

   Developing a comprehensive research design is an indispensable prerequisite for archaeological fieldwork. This strategic plan clearly defines the research objectives and the specific methodologies required to achieve them. By outlining logistical requirements and data collection strategies in advance, researchers ensure that their field activities are systematic rather than random. Such preparation is critical for generating reliable data that can effectively address complex questions.

7. (D) ICT usage in research

   Geographic Information Systems represent a significant application of Information and Communication Technology in modern archaeology. By integrating various spatial datasets, such as environmental factors and known site locations, researchers can perform complex predictive modeling. This technology allows for the visualization of patterns that might not be apparent through traditional methods. Using these digital tools enhances the efficiency

and their stratigraphic context. This contextual information is vital for understanding the relationships between different remains. Proper field investigation ensures that primary data is collected in a scientifically rigorous and documentation-heavy manner.

38. (B) Observing a phenomenon or identifying a problem.

The research process typically begins with the identification of a specific problem or the observation of a phenomenon that requires explanation. This initial step provides the necessary context for developing a research question. Once a clear problem is defined, the researcher can then formulate a tentative hypothesis to be tested through further investigation. Starting with a well-defined problem ensures that the subsequent data collection and analysis are focused and purposeful, leading to more meaningful results.

39. (D) Secondary sources

Monographs that interpret and synthesize findings from archaeological excavations are considered secondary sources. These works are produced after the original discovery and involve the critical analysis of primary evidence. While the original excavation reports and artifacts are primary sources, the monographs provide a layer of scholarly interpretation and historical context. Researchers use these secondary sources to understand how the evidence has been evaluated by experts and to situate their own work within the field.

40. (C) (1), (2) and (3) only

Information and Communication Technology has significantly enhanced various aspects of archaeological research. 3D photogrammetry creates high-resolution digital models of artifacts, while GIS is indispensable for analyzing spatial relationships across landscapes. Additionally, the internet enables instant collaboration and information sharing among international teams. However, these digital tools do not make traditional skills like careful observation or hand-drawing obsolete. Instead, technology complements these foundational skills, providing new ways to record, analyze, and communicate archaeological data more effectively.

41. (C) To visually summarize and compare quantitative archaeological data.

Statistical charts are essential tools for the systematic presentation of quantitative archaeological data. By using visual formats like bar charts or histograms, researchers can effectively summarize large datasets, making trends and comparisons immediately apparent. These visual aids allow the audience to grasp complex numerical relationships that might be difficult to understand from text alone. Proper use of charts enhances the clarity and impact of a report, supporting the interpretation of findings with clear, visual evidence.

42. (A) (3), (2), (4), (1)

A research paper follows a standard organizational structure for its referencing components. The title appears first to identify the work. In-text citations are used throughout the body of the text to credit sources as they are mentioned. Footnotes or endnotes may be included at the bottom of pages or the end of chapters to provide additional detail. Finally, a comprehensive bibliography or reference list is placed at the very end of the document for full attribution.

43. (D) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Archaeological field investigations are not random searches for treasure, but are instead systematic scientific inquiries. They are guided by a structured research design specifically created to answer focused questions about the past. This process emphasizes the importance of context and meticulous documentation over the mere recovery of objects. Modern archaeology is a disciplined field where excavations are conducted according to strict methodological and ethical standards, ensuring that recovered data contributes to the advancement of knowledge.

44. (B) An in-depth, multi-faceted study of the site of Pompeii.

A case study approach involves an intensive and detailed investigation of a single entity, such as a specific archaeological site. By focusing on a complex and well-preserved location like Pompeii, researchers can explore a wide range of social, economic, and architectural issues in great depth. This multi-faceted analysis provides

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Ground-Penetrating Radar allows researchers to detect buried structures without disturbing the earth. Together, these tools significantly enhance the precision and depth of archaeological investigations and data management.

16. (B) An interpretation of primary data, such as a journal article or monograph.

A secondary source in archaeology is a work that discusses, analyzes, or synthesizes information originally presented in primary sources. These sources, such as academic journal articles, monographs, and encyclopedias, provide a layer of interpretation or historical context. They are essential for understanding how researchers evaluate evidence over time. Unlike primary sources, which are direct evidence, secondary sources are derived from the critical study of that evidence.

17. (B) Withholding data that contradicts the researcher's main hypothesis.

Maintaining ethical integrity in research requires complete transparency and honesty regarding all findings. Deliberately withholding or ignoring data that does not support a researcher's initial hypothesis is a form of scientific misconduct. This practice distorts the truth and prevents the objective evaluation of theories. Ethical archaeology demands that all evidence, whether it supports or refutes a proposed idea, must be reported and analyzed to ensure the advancement of knowledge.

18. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Falsifiability is a core requirement for any scientific hypothesis, as it ensures the proposition can be objectively tested. A hypothesis must be phrased in a way that allows for the possibility of being proven wrong through empirical observation or experimentation. If an idea cannot be challenged by evidence, it is considered speculative and remains outside the boundaries of scientific inquiry. This principle maintains the rigor and reliability of research.

19. (C) An intensive investigation of a single complex site like Mohenjo-Daro.

The case study method in archaeology involves a detailed and multifaceted investigation of a specific entity, such as a single site, community, or event. By focusing deeply on a unique location like Mohenjo-Daro, researchers can explore complex social, economic, and architectural patterns in great detail. This approach provides a comprehensive understanding of the specific context being studied, offering valuable insights that broader, more superficial surveys might overlook or fail to capture.

20. (C) (1), (2), (4) and (5) only

High-quality archaeological research is characterized by being systematic, logical, and firmly grounded in empirical evidence. It must utilize transparent methodologies that allow other scholars to evaluate or replicate the study. Furthermore, significant research should contribute to the field by generating new questions and opening future avenues for investigation. Scientific conclusions are always subject to revision based on new data and should never be presented as absolute or final truths.

21. (C) To act as a systematic blueprint for conducting the research.

A research design serves as the fundamental strategic plan for any archaeological project. It outlines the specific research questions, the methods for data collection, and the planned techniques for analysis. By providing a systematic blueprint, it ensures that the work remains focused and that resources are used efficiently. This proactive planning is essential for maintaining scientific rigor and ensuring that the project can achieve its stated objectives and goals.

22. (B) A potsherd, its context sheet, and a photograph of it in situ are all primary data.

Primary data in archaeology consists of the original, unmediated evidence recovered during an investigation. This includes the physical artifacts themselves, as well as the immediate records of their discovery, such as in situ photographs and stratigraphic context sheets. These materials provide the raw evidence needed for analysis. In contrast, any subsequent reports, articles, or books that interpret this data are considered secondary sources because they involve later analysis and synthesis.

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299. A systematic presentation of results should begin by:

A Immediately stating the final conclusion.

B Restating the original research question and hypothesis.

C Providing a list of all team members.

D Showing photographs of the excavation in progress.

300. What is the final step in the presentation of results, as described by the paragraph?

A Discussing the implications of the results for the wider field.

B Acknowledging the funding agencies.

C Providing a detailed budget of the project.

D Destroying the raw data to protect its integrity.

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of the archaeological record. Accountability requires researchers to be answerable to the public, scholars, and descendant communities. Avoiding commercialization means preventing the buying and selling of artifacts, which fuels looting. Public education and outreach ensure that research findings are shared with the broader community in an accessible way, fostering a general appreciation for cultural heritage.

31. (A) The research questions or problems to be addressed.

The most fundamental component of any research design is the clear identification of the research questions or problems to be investigated. These questions define the scope and purpose of the entire project, guiding all subsequent decisions regarding methodology and data collection. Without well-defined questions, research lacks focus and can become a random collection of information. Every other element of the design, from logistical planning to analysis, is built around answering these core inquiries.

32. (B) Processing involves cleaning and organizing data, while analysis involves interpreting it to find patterns and answer questions.

Data processing and analysis are two distinct but related stages in archaeological research. Processing occurs first and involves the physical and digital preparation of raw data, such as washing, sorting, and cataloging artifacts. Once the data is organized and cleaned, analysis begins. During analysis, researchers examine the processed data to identify significant patterns, relationships, and trends. This critical step is where the evidence is interpreted to address the initial research questions and hypotheses.

33. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Digital databases have transformed archaeological research by providing powerful tools for managing information. These systems allow for the secure storage and rapid retrieval of data collected during complex excavations. Unlike traditional paper-based methods, digital databases enable researchers to perform sophisticated queries across multiple datasets, identifying patterns that would be nearly impossible to find manually. This technological advancement significantly increases the efficiency and depth of data processing and analysis in modern archaeological projects.

34. (A) In-text or parenthetical citation

The use of a brief reference within the main body of a research paper, such as an author's name followed by a date and page number, is known as an in-text or parenthetical citation. This method provides immediate credit to the source of an idea or piece of data without interrupting the flow of the text excessively. It allows the reader to quickly locate the full bibliographic details in the reference list at the end.

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35. (B) (2), (3) and (5) only

Ethical practices in archaeology focus on responsibility, transparency, and preservation. Researchers are obligated to publish their findings in a timely manner to share knowledge with the community. They must also recognize that the archaeological record is a finite, non-renewable resource that requires careful management and stewardship. Furthermore, meticulous archiving of all field records is essential for future verification. Practices such as fabricating data or ignoring the wishes of descendant communities are considered major ethical violations.

36. (D) Replicability

Replicability is a critical characteristic of scientific research that ensures the reliability of findings. It implies that if another researcher follows the same documented procedures and uses similar data, they should be able to produce the same results. This transparency allows the scholarly community to verify and validate the original work. Without replicability, research remains subjective and difficult to evaluate, undermining the collective effort to build a dependable and objective body of archaeological knowledge.

37. (C) Systematic survey, excavation, and context-based recording of data.

Field investigations in archaeology are comprehensive efforts to recover data from the physical world. This process involves more than just digging; it includes systematic surface surveys to locate sites and controlled excavations to uncover features. Most importantly, it requires the meticulous recording of artifacts

287. The concept of an 'audit trail' in referencing means that:
- A It helps auditors calculate the financial cost of the research.
- B It is a log of all the changes made to a research paper.
- C It allows readers to trace and verify the sources used by the author.
- D It is a system for tracking lost or stolen artifacts.

288. How does systematic referencing contribute to the scientific process in archaeology?
- A By proving that the author's argument is definitively correct.
- B By allowing for the verification of evidence and evaluation of interpretations.
- C By ensuring that the research can never be challenged.
- D By standardizing the conclusions that all researchers must reach.

289. The paragraph states that different referencing styles like Harvard or Chicago:
- A Are fundamentally incompatible with archaeological research.
- B Mean that some research does not require any citations.
- C Are chosen based on the personal preference of the author alone.
- D Share the same underlying principle of systematic attribution.

290. What is the implied consequence of a research paper lacking proper referencing?
- A Its scholarly value and credibility are fundamentally undermined.
- B It will be more accessible to the general public.
- C It will be praised for its originality and creativity.
- D It can be published more quickly than a properly referenced paper.

Direction : Please read the following source carefully.

Following the collection of primary data through field investigations, archaeological research enters the crucial phase of data processing. This stage is a necessary intermediary step that transforms raw, often chaotic, field data into a structured and analyzable format. Raw data, in the form of newly excavated artifacts, soil samples, field notes, and digital records, is not immediately useful for interpretation. The processing phase involves a series of systematic procedures. First is the basic cleaning and conservation of artifacts to stabilize them and reveal diagnostic attributes. Subsequently, the essential task of cataloging begins, where each item or context is assigned a unique identifier and its key attributes are recorded in a database. This is followed by classification and typology, where artifacts are sorted into meaningful groups based on attributes like material, form, and decoration. For instance, pottery sherds might be classified by fabric type, vessel shape, and decorative motifs. Similarly, stratigraphic data from field notes and drawings must be organized and synthesized into a coherent sequence, often visualized in a Harris Matrix. This entire process is meticulous and time-consuming, but it is indispensable for converting the mass of raw evidence into an organized dataset that is ready for the subsequent stage of analysis, where patterns can be identified, quantified, and interpreted in relation to the research hypothesis.

Based on the above source, attempt the following five questions.

291. What is the primary purpose of the data processing phase in archaeology?
- A To display artifacts in a museum for public viewing.
- B To immediately publish the results of an excavation.
- C To transform raw field data into a structured, analyzable format.
- D To determine the monetary value of the finds.

292. According to the text, what is one of the first steps in processing newly excavated artifacts?
- A Cleaning and conserving them for stabilization.
- B Classifying them into typological groups.
- C Assigning them a final interpretation.
- D Creating a 3D digital model.

293. The process of sorting pottery sherds based on fabric, shape, and decoration is an example of:

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a comprehensive understanding of that unique context. Case studies are valuable because they offer detailed insights that broader, more general studies may fail to capture.

45. (A) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

Archaeological research utilizes specific terms with precise meanings. A hypothesis is a testable proposition about relationships between phenomena, while a research design is the strategic plan for executing a project. A primary source refers to direct evidence or first-hand accounts from the time period under study. Finally, research ethics are the moral principles that govern a researcher's conduct throughout the investigation. Understanding these fundamental concepts is essential for conducting rigorous and professionally responsible archaeological research.

46. (D) Making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

Data fabrication is a severe violation of research ethics that involves the intentional creation of fake data or results. Instead of reporting actual findings from field or laboratory work, a researcher invents information and presents it as genuine. This deceptive practice undermines the foundation of scientific inquiry and misleads the entire scholarly community. Ethical research requires the honest and accurate recording of all observations, ensuring that conclusions are based on real evidence rather than manufactured falsehoods.

47. (A) A statement of 'no effect' or 'no difference' used for testing.

In scientific research, a null hypothesis is a formal statement proposing that there is no significant relationship between the variables being studied. It serves as a baseline for statistical testing. Researchers collect data and use statistical methods to see if they can reject the null hypothesis in favor of an alternative explanation. This structured approach helps ensure that any identified patterns or differences in the archaeological record are statistically significant rather than the result of random chance.

48. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

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Excavation is fundamentally a destructive process because it permanently removes archaeological materials from their original context. Once a site is excavated, it cannot be put back together, meaning the unique spatial relationships between finds are lost forever. Because of this, archaeologists have an ethical imperative to record every detail meticulously through notes, drawings, and photographs. This thorough documentation serves as the only permanent record of the site, allowing future researchers to re-examine the findings.

49. (B) Primary data collection and processing

Using a Total Station to create precise digital maps is a core part of primary data collection in modern archaeology. This technology allows for the exact recording of three-dimensional coordinates for artifacts and features as they are uncovered. The resulting digital data is then processed to create accurate site plans and spatial models. This meticulous approach ensures that the primary evidence and its precise context are recorded with high accuracy, providing a solid foundation for subsequent spatial analysis.

50. (C) (1), (2), (4) and (5) only

Archaeological research is a structured and systematic process aimed at interpreting past human behaviors. It is initiated to address specific problems and follows a well-defined research design to ensure scientific rigor. Modern archaeology also frequently involves interdisciplinary collaboration with various sciences, such as geology and biology, to provide a more holistic view of the past. Successful research must be based on objective, empirical evidence and a logical approach, rather than on personal opinions or subjective interpretations.

51. (C) Formats for systematic referencing

The Chicago Manual of Style and the APA style are standardized systems used for formatting citations and bibliographies in academic writing. These formats provide specific rules for how to attribute sources both within the text and in a final reference list. Using a consistent referencing style ensures that all sources are credited properly and that readers can easily locate the original evidence. This is a critical component of

buried structures like walls or pits without the need for excavation. This application of Information and Communication Technology allows archaeologists to map subterranean features efficiently. It provides a detailed preview of the site, helping researchers plan more precise and targeted excavations while minimizing disturbance to the archaeological record.

80. (A) (1), (2), (3), and (4) only

Archaeological research employs a variety of legitimate methods to explore the past. Ethno-archaeology uses observations of modern cultures, while experimental archaeology involves replicating technologies to understand ancient processes. Case studies offer in-depth investigations of specific sites, and field investigations provide primary data through survey and excavation. However, falsifying data, such as radiocarbon dates, is a major ethical violation and is never a valid research practice. Scientific integrity depends on the honest and transparent application of these methodological approaches.

81. (B) A monograph interpreting excavation reports from multiple sites.

A secondary source in archaeology is a scholarly work that analyzes and synthesizes information from primary sources. A monograph that interprets data from various excavation reports provides a layer of expert analysis and historical context. While original field diaries, artifacts, and soil strata are primary sources containing direct evidence, the monograph represents a later evaluation of that evidence. These secondary sources are essential for understanding broad cultural patterns and how different pieces of evidence are linked together.

82. (A) To communicate findings to the academic community and stakeholders.

The systematic presentation of data and results is the final, essential stage of the research process. Its primary goal is to share the knowledge gained from the investigation with other scholars, descendant communities, and the public. By organizing findings into clear reports, articles, or presentations, researchers allow others to examine, critique, and build upon their work. This open communication is fundamental to the scientific method, ensuring that archaeological discoveries contribute to the collective understanding of human history.

83. (C) Systematic

Being systematic is a core characteristic of research, implying that the investigation follows a logical, pre-planned sequence of steps. This structured approach ensures that data collection and analysis are conducted in a disciplined manner rather than being random or haphazard. By following a clear methodology, researchers can minimize errors and ensure that their conclusions are based on a comprehensive examination of the evidence. Systematic research maintains the rigor and consistency necessary for producing reliable and scientifically valid knowledge.

84. (D) A situation where personal interests compromise professional judgment.

A conflict of interest occurs in research when a scientist's personal or financial interests have the potential to bias their professional judgment or actions. This is a significant ethical concern because it can undermine the objectivity and integrity of the study. For example, if a researcher is funded by an organization with a specific agenda, they might feel pressured to produce results that favor that group. Maintaining ethical standards requires the full disclosure of any such potential conflicts.

85. (C) (1), (2), (3) and (4)

A research design is a comprehensive framework that serves as a blueprint for an entire project. It must clearly link the central research questions to the specific data needed to answer them. A well-developed design specifies the spatial and temporal boundaries of the study and outlines the methods for systematic data collection and analysis. Additionally, it may include a pilot study to test these methods. This thorough planning is essential for ensuring the project is successful and scientifically rigorous.

86. (B) Experimental archaeology

Experimental archaeology is the most appropriate method for investigating the function and manufacturing of ancient objects through practical replication. By creating a modern replica of a mysterious tool and using

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context of a site to find valuable objects for sale. This loss of context means that the vast majority of historical information is destroyed forever. Ethical archaeology opposes the sale of artifacts to protect the integrity of the archaeological record as a public scientific resource.

59. (D) A systematic and scholarly investigation into a specific problem or question.

Academic research is defined as a disciplined and structured inquiry designed to increase knowledge or solve a particular problem. It is not merely a search for information, but a methodical process involving hypothesis formulation, evidence gathering, and critical analysis. In an archaeological context, this means using scientific techniques to explore questions about the human past. The process must be rigorous and verifiable, distinguishing it from casual information gathering or the simple collection of interesting objects.

60. (B) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

Different archaeological activities correspond to specific research concepts. Using photogrammetry to create 3D models is an application of Information and Communication Technology. Writing a bibliography is part of systematic referencing, ensuring all sources are properly credited. Formulating a testable question is the core of hypothesis formulation, providing direction for the study. Finally, excavating a test pit is a foundational field investigation technique used to recover primary data and examine the stratigraphy of an archaeological site.

61. (C) Based on observation, experience, or experimentation.

Empirical research is a fundamental characteristic of archaeology, meaning that all conclusions must be based on direct evidence gathered from the world. This evidence is obtained through systematic observation, field experience, or controlled experimentation. By relying on empirical data rather than personal belief or abstract logic alone, researchers ensure their findings are grounded in reality. This objective approach allows others to examine the same evidence and verify the results, which is essential for the scientific advancement of knowledge.

62. (D) Manipulating research processes, or changing and omitting data.

Data falsification is a serious ethical breach where a researcher deliberately misrepresents the research process or findings. This includes manipulating equipment, changing recorded data points, or selectively omitting results that do not support a desired conclusion. Unlike fabrication, which involves making up data from scratch, falsification involves distorting real data to present a false narrative. Both practices undermine the integrity of scientific research and are strictly prohibited in professional archaeology to ensure the reliability of the historical record.

63. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Ethno-archaeology is a valuable research method that uses observations from living societies to help interpret ancient material remains. By studying how contemporary groups manufacture, use, and discard objects, archaeologists can develop more informed models of human behavior. These ethnographic analogies provide a bridge between the static remains of the past and the dynamic actions that created them. This approach allows researchers to create and test more realistic hypotheses about the social and economic lives of ancient people.

64. (B) Intensive and in-depth, focusing on a single instance or case.

A case study is a research method characterized by its focus on a specific, bounded entity, such as a single site or community. It involves a detailed, multi-dimensional investigation to understand the complexities and unique features of that particular case. Unlike broad surveys that look for general patterns across large areas, a case study provides deep, contextualized knowledge. This approach is essential in archaeology for exploring how different factors interacted in specific historical settings to produce unique cultural outcomes.

65. (A) (1), (2), (3) and (4) only

Distinguishing between primary and secondary sources is essential for accurate research. Primary sources include original excavation reports, artifacts, and their associated stratigraphic data, as

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respecting their cultural perspectives on heritage. Unlike older practices that often ignored these interests, today's ethical framework recognizes that archaeology must be conducted responsibly and respectfully in a broad social and cultural context.

108. (B) Primary source

An original, unpublished excavation plan is a primary source because it is a direct record created at the time of discovery. These documents provide unmediated evidence of the spatial relationships and features found during the original fieldwork. For future researchers, such archival materials are essential for verifying earlier findings and conducting new analyses. Primary sources like field drawings and notes represent the foundational evidence upon which all subsequent archaeological interpretations and secondary publications are built and evaluated.

109. (C) It is rigorous, systematic, and verifiable.

Academic research is distinguished from casual inquiry by its rigorous and systematic nature. It follows established methodologies to ensure that data is collected and analyzed in a disciplined and objective way. Furthermore, research must be verifiable, meaning that the evidence and procedures are transparent enough for other scholars to examine and validate the results. These characteristics ensure that research contributes to the reliable advancement of knowledge, distinguishing scientific investigation from popular opinion or personal belief.

110. (A) (1), (3) and (4) only

Ethical conduct in research is based on honesty, transparency, and respect for others. This includes recording data accurately, giving proper credit to all contributors, and respecting the intellectual property and cultural heritage of local communities. Researchers must also prioritize safety and the long-term preservation of artifacts. Selling artifacts or ignoring safety protocols are major violations of professional ethics. Maintaining these high standards ensures that archaeological research is conducted responsibly and maintains its integrity as a scholarly and public service.

111. (A) Research design

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A research design is the strategic plan or blueprint developed to address a specific research question. It outlines the entire process, including the selection of appropriate methodologies, data collection techniques, and analytical tools. By creating this strategy before beginning the work, researchers ensure that their investigation is systematic and purposeful. The research design links the theoretical goals of the project with the practical steps required to achieve them, providing a clear path from problem identification to conclusion.

112. (B) Because they provide the primary contextualized data about the past.

Field investigations are the foundation of archaeology because they provide direct access to primary data in its original context. Through systematic survey and excavation, researchers recover artifacts and features, while also recording their precise stratigraphic relationships. This contextual information is essential for interpreting the age, function, and meaning of the finds. Without field investigations, archaeology would lack the empirical evidence needed to build and test theories about past human societies, making it a central and indispensable activity.

113. (B) A testable hypothesis

This statement is an example of a testable hypothesis because it proposes a specific relationship that can be evaluated using archaeological evidence. It suggests that if a certain social condition existed (mobility), then certain physical patterns should be observed in the material record (limited tool types). An archaeologist can then test this by examining actual sites in the region. Formulating such clear, if-then propositions is a fundamental part of the scientific method, guiding focused and productive research.

114. (A) Writing the final conclusions of the research paper.

Data processing in archaeology involves the practical and organizational steps required to prepare raw field data for analysis. This includes cleaning, labeling, and cataloging artifacts, as well as entering information into digital databases. It also encompasses the systematic classification of finds into categories. However,

not anticipated in the initial planning phase. When such discoveries occur, researchers must be able to modify their original strategy to ensure these new findings are properly documented and analyzed. This balance between structured planning and adaptive flexibility is essential for conducting thorough and effective archaeological research.

73. (C) Data processing

Data processing is the stage in archaeological research where raw materials from the field are organized and prepared for analysis. This involves several critical steps, including cleaning artifacts, labeling them with context information, and creating a detailed catalog. By sorting and classifying finds into logical groups, such as pottery types or tool categories, researchers turn a collection of objects into a structured dataset. This preparation is essential for the subsequent analysis and interpretation of the archaeological evidence.

74. (A) Plagiarism

Legitimate archaeological research relies on various scientific and scholarly methods to investigate the past. Field investigations, case studies, and ethno-archaeology are all recognized approaches for gathering and analyzing evidence. Conversely, plagiarism is a serious ethical violation that involves using someone else's work or ideas without credit. It is the opposite of research, as it seeks to deceive rather than to advance knowledge. Maintaining academic integrity requires the complete rejection of such dishonest practices in any scholarly inquiry.

75. (B) P-2, Q-3, R-4, S-1

The archaeological research process is divided into several stages, each with its own key activities. The research design involves formulating questions and choosing appropriate methods. Data collection includes active fieldwork, such as conducting systematic surface surveys. Data processing involves the organization of raw materials, such as creating ceramic typologies. Finally, the presentation of results culminates in the writing of formal reports, journal articles, or monographs to share the findings with the broader scholarly community and the public.

76. (B) Communicate work results and importance to non-academic audiences.

Public education and outreach are ethical responsibilities that require archaeologists to share their findings with the general public. This involves presenting research in accessible formats, such as public lectures, museum exhibits, or popular articles, rather than only in specialized academic journals. By explaining the significance of archaeological work, researchers help foster public support for heritage preservation. This outreach ensures that the knowledge gained from the archaeological record, which is a shared human resource, is available to everyone.

77. (C) Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a proposed explanation for a phenomenon that can be tested through further investigation. In this case, the statement suggests a specific relationship between the adoption of agriculture and population density, which an archaeologist can evaluate using archaeological evidence. It serves as a tentative answer to a research question, guiding the subsequent data collection and analysis. A well-formulated hypothesis is essential for the scientific method, providing a clear framework for exploring complex social and economic changes.

78. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Systematic referencing is fundamental to maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty. By providing accurate citations, researchers clearly identify the sources of their information and acknowledge the work of others. This practice prevents plagiarism and allows other scholars to trace the evidence back to its original context. Proper referencing also demonstrates the depth of the author's research and facilitates the critical evaluation of their arguments, which is essential for the continued development of scholarly knowledge.

79. (A) Field investigation

Ground Penetrating Radar is a non-invasive remote sensing technology used during the field investigation phase of research. By sending electromagnetic pulses into the ground and measuring their reflections, GPR can detect

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these are direct records of the evidence. Secondary sources, like textbooks and documentaries, provide later interpretations and summaries of that primary information. Academic research must be based on these legitimate sources. Conversely, personal opinions not grounded in empirical evidence are never considered valid sources in a scientific or scholarly investigation.

66. (A) To provide a baseline for comparison against the experimental variable.

In experimental archaeology, a control group is essential for ensuring the validity of the results. It serves as a standard baseline that is kept under normal conditions, while the experimental group is subjected to a specific variable or treatment. By comparing the two groups, researchers can determine if the observed changes are actually caused by the variable being tested. This structured approach allows for a more objective evaluation of ancient technologies and processes through controlled physical testing.

67. (C) Data Analysis: Using a relational database to query artifact data.

The application of Information and Communication Technology has significantly improved the efficiency of archaeological data management. Using a relational database for data analysis allows researchers to store massive amounts of information about artifacts and their contexts. These systems enable complex queries that can identify patterns and relationships across thousands of individual items. This digital approach to data analysis provides a higher level of precision and accessibility than traditional manual recording methods, facilitating more robust and sophisticated interpretations.

68. (D) To the scholarly community, descendant groups, and the public.

Accountability is a fundamental ethical principle requiring archaeologists to be answerable for their work to multiple groups. They are responsible to the scholarly community for maintaining scientific standards and to descendant communities for respecting cultural heritage and sacred remains. Furthermore, they are accountable to the general public to ensure that archaeological knowledge is shared as a common human heritage. This broad responsibility ensures that research is conducted transparently, ethically, and for the benefit of society as a whole.

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69. (C) To provide a brief summary of the research and its results.

An abstract is a short, concise summary placed at the beginning of a research paper or report. Its primary function is to provide readers with a quick overview of the study's objectives, methodology, key findings, and main conclusions. This allows other scholars to determine the relevance of the paper to their own work without reading the entire document. A well-written abstract is a crucial component of systematic data presentation, facilitating the efficient dissemination of scientific information.

70. (B) (1), (2) and (3) only

Archaeological field investigations involve a range of systematic activities aimed at understanding the past. Non-invasive surface surveys are used to identify and map sites without disturbing the ground. In contrast, excavation is an inherently destructive process that permanently removes stratigraphic context. Therefore, all field activities must be carefully planned and guided by a clear research design to ensure that data is collected responsibly. The primary goal is scientific knowledge, not just the collection of objects for display.

71. (D) Research

Research is defined as a systematic and critical process of inquiry intended to expand human knowledge. It involves a methodical approach to identifying problems, gathering evidence, and analyzing results in a self-reflective manner. In archaeology, this means using scientific principles to explore questions about past societies. This rigorous investigation is essential for ensuring that conclusions are based on solid evidence rather than speculation, thereby contributing to the continuous advancement of the discipline through verifiable and logical study.

72. (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true.

While a research design provides a necessary structured plan, it must remain flexible to accommodate the unpredictable nature of fieldwork. Archaeological investigations often reveal unexpected features or artifacts that were

it for various tasks, researchers can observe the resulting wear patterns and physical outcomes. This empirical evidence provides a basis for making inferences about how the original artifact might have been used in the past. This hands-on approach allows scientists to test theories about ancient technologies and daily life.

87. (D) Primary Source: A research article analyzing data from a site.

Identifying the difference between primary and secondary sources is essential for scholarly work. Ancient coins and artifacts are primary sources as they are direct evidence from the past. However, a research article that analyzes and interprets data from an excavation is a secondary source. While the original data used in the article might be primary, the article itself provides a layer of analysis and interpretation, making it secondary in the context of research materials.

88. (A) (2), (1), (4), (3)

A typical archaeological excavation project follows a specific logical sequence. First, a site grid is established to ensure all finds are recorded with precise horizontal and vertical coordinates. After the excavation is completed, the trenches are backfilled to protect the site and ensure safety. The recovered artifacts are then taken to a laboratory for detailed analysis. Finally, the findings and interpretations are compiled and shared with the community through the publication of a formal research report.

89. (C) ICT for accessing primary and secondary sources

The use of online portals and digital repositories by organizations like the Archaeological Survey of India is a significant application of Information and Communication Technology. These platforms provide researchers with efficient access to primary data, such as excavation reports, and secondary sources, such as monographs. By using ICT to find and retrieve these materials, archaeologists can conduct thorough literature reviews and data synthesis more effectively. This digital accessibility facilitates the rapid exchange of information and enhances the overall research process.

90. (B) (2), (3), (4) and (5) only

Good practice in the systematic presentation of results involves using clear, objective language and ensuring that conclusions are logically supported by the evidence. A final report should also include visual aids like maps and charts that are self-explanatory with proper labels. Furthermore, researchers should acknowledge any limitations in their study. While relevant evidence must be presented, including every piece of raw data in the main text is unnecessary and can distract from the core analysis and conclusions.

91. (D) Understand the human past through the study of material remains.

The central objective of archaeological research is to gain a deeper understanding of past human societies by analyzing their physical remains. This includes studying artifacts, architecture, and environmental evidence to reconstruct ancient social, economic, and cultural systems. Archaeology goes beyond the simple collection of objects; it aims to interpret human behavior and change over time. By using material evidence as primary data, researchers can build a more comprehensive and objective narrative of human history across different periods and regions.

92. (B) It is a specific inquiry which the research seeks to provide an answer to.

A research question is the central focus of any archaeological project, defining the specific problem or issue that the investigation aims to address. It provides a clear direction for the research design, guiding the selection of methodologies and the type of data collected. A well-phrased research question ensures that the study remains purposeful and structured. All subsequent analysis and interpretation are geared toward providing a meaningful and evidence-based answer to this fundamental inquiry.

93. (C) A secondary source

A PhD thesis that synthesizes and analyzes existing data on a specific culture is classified as a secondary source. While the researcher may have used original primary data, the thesis itself is a later work that provides analysis, interpretation, and synthesis of that information. It situates the findings within the broader academic discourse and offers new insights. Secondary sources

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are essential for building a comprehensive understanding of complex archaeological topics by bringing together multiple pieces of primary evidence.

94. (D) Data collection and processing

Using digital calipers to input artifact measurements directly into a spreadsheet is a practical application of Information and Communication Technology in the data collection and processing phase. This method increases the accuracy and efficiency of recording quantitative information, reducing the likelihood of human error during transcription. By digitizing measurements immediately, researchers can quickly organize large datasets for subsequent analysis. This technological approach streamlines the laboratory process, ensuring that primary data is recorded and processed in a modern and reliable manner.

95. (A) P-4, Q-3, R-1, S-2

Citation styles are standardized formats used in academic writing to attribute sources. APA style is common in social sciences and emphasizes the publication date. MLA style is frequently used in humanities and focuses on authorship. The Chicago style often uses an author-date format or a system of footnotes and endnotes to provide source information. Each style has specific features for in-text citations and bibliographies, ensuring that researchers can credit their sources clearly and consistently according to their discipline's standards.

96. (B) Systematic presentation of data

The organization of data into tables and the use of graphs to illustrate trends are key components of the systematic presentation of results. These tools allow researchers to summarize complex quantitative information clearly and concisely. By using visual formats, archaeologists can make patterns and relationships in the data immediately accessible to their audience. This systematic approach is essential for communicating the findings of a study effectively, ensuring that the evidence supporting the conclusions is presented in an understandable way.

97. (B) Halt excavation, document the find, and consult with descendant communities.

When human remains are discovered, archaeologists have an ethical responsibility to act with extreme sensitivity and respect. The most appropriate first step is to pause the excavation to ensure the remains are not further disturbed. The discovery should be meticulously documented in situ. Most importantly, researchers must consult with relevant descendant communities to determine the appropriate and respectful way to proceed. This collaborative approach respects the cultural and spiritual values of these groups regarding ancestral remains.

98. (A) All of the following are characteristics of good research, EXCEPT:

In the context of research methods and academic testing, an exception-based question requires the identification of a statement that is incorrect or does not belong to a specific category. This format is used to test a comprehensive understanding of a topic by asking the respondent to exclude an invalid option. It encourages critical thinking and ensures that all characteristics of a concept, such as the qualities of good research, are thoroughly understood through the process of elimination.

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99. (C) A project conclusion often generates new questions for further research.

Research is characterized as cyclical because the conclusion of one investigation often provides the starting point for another. As researchers analyze their data and answer their initial questions, they frequently uncover new problems, anomalies, or gaps in knowledge that require further study. This process ensures the continuous growth of archaeological knowledge. Rather than being a closed end, a research project contributes to an ongoing cycle of inquiry, where each study builds upon and refines the work that came before it.

100. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

A case study provides a deep and intensive investigation of a specific archaeological site or community, offering valuable detailed insights. However, because it focuses on a single, unique instance, its findings cannot be automatically applied as general rules for all other cultures or time periods. The specific environmental, social, and historical factors that shaped one site might not be present elsewhere. While case studies

are essential for understanding complexity, archaeologists must be cautious about making broad generalizations from these specific contexts.

101. (C) Ethno-archaeology

Ethno-archaeology is a specialized research method where archaeologists study contemporary societies to gain insights into the behaviors and material culture of the past. By observing how living communities organize their social space, manufacture tools, and dispose of waste, researchers can develop ethnographic analogies. These comparisons help explain patterns found in the archaeological record that might otherwise be difficult to interpret. This method provides a dynamic perspective on how human actions create the static remains found during excavation.

102. (B) To create a testable proposition that can be evaluated by evidence.

The core principle of formulating a research hypothesis is to develop a specific, tentative statement that can be evaluated through empirical observation or experimentation. A hypothesis must be phrased in a way that allows it to be tested and potentially proven wrong by the evidence. It serves as a focused guide for the entire investigation, helping researchers determine what data is needed and how it should be analyzed. This testability is a fundamental requirement of the scientific method.

103. (D) It involves organizing, cleaning, and preparing raw data for analysis.

Data processing is an essential intermediate stage in archaeological research that transforms raw field materials into a structured format. This process includes physical tasks like cleaning and labeling artifacts, as well as digital tasks like entering data into databases. By organizing and cataloging the evidence, researchers create a manageable dataset that can be analyzed effectively. Proper data processing ensures that all information is accurate and accessible, providing a reliable foundation for the subsequent interpretation of the archaeological record.

104. (A) Managing references and generating bibliographies

Zotero and Mendeley are powerful Information and Communication Technology tools designed specifically for reference management. These software programs allow researchers to collect, organize, and store bibliographic information from various sources like books and journal articles. They also automate the process of creating in-text citations and comprehensive bibliographies in multiple academic styles. Using these tools significantly improves the accuracy and efficiency of systematic referencing, which is a critical aspect of maintaining scholarly standards and avoiding plagiarism.

105. (D) (1), (2), (3) and (4)

A research design is a comprehensive plan that incorporates several essential components to guide an archaeological project. It begins with a clear statement of the research problem and the formulation of testable hypotheses. Additionally, it must specify the data collection techniques to be used in the field and the analytical methods for interpreting the findings. By including all these elements, the research design provides a logical and systematic framework that ensures the project remains focused and scientifically rigorous.

106. (A) Display the spatial distribution of sites, features, or artifact densities.

In archaeological reports, maps are the most effective tool for visualizing spatial relationships across a landscape or within a site. They are used to show the locations of different sites, the distribution of features within an excavation, or patterns of artifact density. By presenting data spatially, researchers can identify significant clusters or trends that might not be apparent in text or tables alone. Maps are essential for understanding how past societies organized themselves and interacted with their environment.

107. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Research ethics in archaeology are not static but have evolved significantly over time to reflect changing social and professional values. Modern ethical standards place a strong emphasis on accountability to descendant communities and local stakeholders. This includes collaborating with these groups on research goals and

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systematic referencing, maintaining professional standards and academic integrity.

52. (D) Data should be presented in a way that supports the hypothesis, and contradictory data should be omitted.

The ethical presentation of research results requires absolute honesty and transparency. A researcher must present all relevant data, including findings that may contradict their initial hypothesis. Deliberately omitting contradictory evidence is a form of scientific misconduct that distorts the truth. Good academic practice involves using clear tables and figures and linking conclusions directly to evidence. By discussing both supporting and conflicting data, researchers provide a balanced and objective analysis that respects the complexity of the archaeological record.

53. (C) Document the tool and its context meticulously and consider revising the hypothesis or typology to account for it.

When an archaeologist encounters evidence that challenges existing theories, the correct methodological response is to document the find thoroughly and objectively. Scientific inquiry requires that hypotheses be flexible and subject to revision based on new empirical data. Instead of ignoring anomalies, researchers should use them to refine their understanding of the past. This process of updating theories to better fit the available evidence is fundamental to the advancement of archaeological knowledge and the scientific method.

54. (B) The archaeological record is a public trust, and archaeologists are caretakers.

Stewardship is a core ethical principle in archaeology, emphasizing that the archaeological record is a finite and non-renewable resource. Archaeologists do not own the artifacts they discover; instead, they serve as temporary caretakers who manage this heritage for the benefit of the public and future generations. This principle requires researchers to prioritize the long-term conservation and curation of materials. Stewardship ensures that archaeological heritage is preserved as a shared human legacy rather than being treated as private property.

55. (B) (2), (3) and (4) only

A research design is a comprehensive plan that outlines the fundamental components of an archaeological project. It must clearly state the research questions and objectives, while also specifying the methods for data collection and analysis. Furthermore, it should include a plan for the eventual publication and dissemination of the results. While it provides a structured framework, a research design should remain flexible enough to accommodate unexpected findings or logistical challenges encountered during the actual investigation.

56. (A) Animal bones and carbonized plant seeds recovered from a hearth feature.

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Primary sources for studying ancient diets are the actual physical remains recovered from archaeological contexts. Animal bones and carbonized seeds found in a hearth provide direct, unmediated evidence of what people were eating and how they prepared their food. These materials were part of the daily life of the society being studied. In contrast, modern books and articles are secondary sources because they analyze and interpret this primary evidence long after it was originally deposited.

57. (C) ICT in data analysis and processing

The use of specialized statistical software like SPSS or R is a clear application of Information and Communication Technology in the analysis phase of research. These tools allow archaeologists to perform complex mathematical tests on large datasets, identifying significant patterns and correlations that would be difficult to calculate manually. By integrating ICT into data processing, researchers can improve the precision and objectivity of their findings. This technological approach is essential for handling the quantitative data generated by modern archaeological investigations.

58. (A) It encourages site looting and context destruction for profit.

The commercialization of archaeological artifacts is a major ethical concern because it creates a financial incentive for the illegal excavation of sites. When artifacts are treated as commodities, looters destroy the scientific

writing final conclusions is part of the synthesis and presentation stage of research, which occurs after the data has been both processed and analyzed. Processing focuses on the management and preparation of evidence rather than its final interpretation.

115. (B) P-3, Q-4, R-1, S-2

A standard research report is organized into logical sections, each serving a specific purpose. The introduction presents the problem and hypothesis, while the methodology describes the techniques used for data collection and analysis. The results section provides the actual presentation of the analyzed data through text, tables, and figures. Finally, the conclusion summarizes the findings and their broader implications. This structure ensures that the research is presented in a clear, systematic, and professionally recognized manner.

116. (D) ICT in the literature review process

Using online academic databases like JSTOR is a primary application of Information and Communication Technology in the literature review stage of research. These digital platforms provide researchers with rapid access to a vast array of secondary sources, such as journal articles and monographs, from around the world. By using ICT to find and review existing scholarship, archaeologists can ensure their work is well-informed and situates new findings within the current state of knowledge, making the research process more efficient and comprehensive.

117. (C) It destroys scientific value by removing archaeological context.

The looting of archaeological sites is a major ethical problem because it prioritizes the recovery of valuable objects over scientific knowledge. When looters dig illegally, they destroy the stratigraphic context of artifacts, making it impossible to determine their age, function, or relationship to other finds. This loss of primary information means that most of the scientific and historical value of the site is destroyed forever. Ethical archaeology emphasizes that the context is just as important as the object itself.

118. (B) A gap in knowledge or controversy that research aims to address.

In a scholarly context, a research problem is a specific issue, question, or gap in existing knowledge that a study is designed to address. It is the central motivation for conducting the research. Identifying a clear research problem ensures that the investigation has a purposeful focus and contributes something new to the field. This is distinct from practical difficulties, such as logistics or funding, which are challenges to be managed rather than the intellectual core of the study.

119. (D) To provide a representative way of collecting data from a large area.

A sampling strategy is a critical component of a research design, especially in large-scale field surveys. Because it is often impossible to investigate every part of a large region, researchers use sampling to select a smaller, representative portion for study. This ensures that the data collected can be used to make statistically valid inferences about the entire area. Proper sampling minimizes bias and allows for a more efficient and scientifically rigorous exploration of settlement patterns and archaeological landscapes.

120. (D) A is false but R is true.

NODIA

While archaeological interpretation involves critical thinking, it is not a purely subjective process where all opinions are equally valid. For a conclusion to be scientifically credible, it must be firmly grounded in and constrained by empirical evidence. Researchers use systematic methods to ensure that their interpretations are logically consistent with the data gathered from the field and laboratory. This reliance on evidence ensures that archaeological knowledge is objective and subject to verification by the broader scholarly community.

121. (C) Case Study

A case study is a research method that focuses on an in-depth and intensive investigation of a single unit, such as an individual site, event, or community. It aims to explore the complexities of that specific case within its real-world context. Unlike broad, comparative studies that seek general patterns, the case study provides detailed, nuanced knowledge about the unique factors that shaped a particular archaeological context.

150. (D) (1), (2), (3) and (4)

Information and Communication Technology is used across all stages of modern archaeological research. GPR survey and photogrammetry represent digital applications for data collection and spatial mapping. Relational databases are essential for the systematic management and processing of complex excavation data. Finally, reference management software like Zotero assists in the organization of scholarly sources for systematic referencing. These diverse applications of ICT significantly enhance the precision, efficiency, and depth of archaeological investigations, from initial fieldwork through to final publication.

151. (D) Field investigations record past data; experimental archaeology replicates processes.

Field investigations and experimental archaeology are distinct but complementary research methods. Field investigations involve systematic surveys and excavations to recover and record primary evidence of past human activity from the physical world. In contrast, experimental archaeology involves the practical replication of ancient technologies, such as tool-making or pottery firing, to understand the processes and behaviors behind the archaeological remains. While fieldwork provides the raw data, experimentation offers an empirical way to test theories about how that data was created.

152. (A) The grouping of artifacts based on shared attributes (e.g., a pottery typology).

Classification is a fundamental step in data processing where researchers organize recovered artifacts into logical groups based on shared physical or functional attributes. By creating typologies, such as for pottery or stone tools, archaeologists can identify patterns and trends within a dataset. This systematic organization is essential for subsequent analysis, allowing researchers to compare different groups of artifacts and understand changes in technology or culture over time. Proper classification transforms a random collection of finds into a structured and meaningful source of information.

153. (C) Report results honestly and discuss why the hypothesis was not supported.

Maintaining ethical integrity in research requires complete honesty, especially when findings contradict an initial hypothesis. Scientific progress depends on reporting all evidence objectively, whether it supports or refutes a proposed idea. An ethical researcher will acknowledge that the hypothesis was not supported and use the data to explore alternative explanations. This transparency ensures that the scholarly record remains accurate and that theories are continually refined based on real empirical evidence, rather than being distorted to fit preconceived notions.

154. (A) Conclusion

The conclusion is the final section of a research paper, serving to synthesize the entire study. It summarizes the key findings from the data analysis and explicitly relates them back to the original research questions and hypotheses. Additionally, the conclusion discusses the broader significance of the results and often identifies new questions or directions for future research. This section provides a logical and final summary of the contribution the study makes to the current body of archaeological knowledge.

155. (D) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)

The research process follows a logical sequence to ensure scientific rigor and ethical responsibility. It begins with identifying a problem and conducting a thorough literature review. This is followed by the development of a structured research design and methodology. Data is then collected and processed according to this plan. Finally, the findings are presented and shared with the scholarly community, with proper referencing for all sources. This systematic approach ensures that the investigation is focused, transparent, and contributes reliably to knowledge.

156. (B) The author's engagement with previous scholarship on the topic.

A comprehensive bibliography is a critical component of academic writing that demonstrates a researcher's engagement with the existing body of knowledge. It provides a complete record of the primary and secondary sources consulted, showing that the work is well-informed and situates new findings within the broader scholarly discourse. Proper referencing

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meticulous recording of context to ensure meaningful interpretations.

129. (B) Identifying a problem or asking a question

The scientific method begins with the identification of a specific research problem or a question that requires an answer. This initial step provides the necessary focus and purpose for the entire investigation. Once a clear problem is defined, the researcher can proceed to formulate a testable hypothesis and design a methodology for collecting and analyzing evidence. Starting with a well-defined question ensures that the research process is structured and aimed at contributing new and relevant knowledge to the field.

130. (B) (1), (3) and (4) only

Archaeological research utilizes several recognized methods, including field investigations like survey and excavation, and experimental archaeology for replicating technologies. Ethno-archaeology is another important method, involving the study of modern cultures to understand the past. However, a case study focuses on an in-depth rather than a general overview. Furthermore, not all research must begin with excavation; many projects start with non-invasive surveys or archival study. Scientific research is diverse and adapts its methods to address specific questions.

131. (C) A popular magazine article about a recent archaeological discovery.

Primary sources in archaeology are original records or direct evidence from the time of a discovery or event. These include field notes, artifacts, and soil samples. A popular magazine article, however, is a tertiary or secondary source because it provides a summarized and simplified account of a discovery for a general audience, often long after the original research was conducted. For professional research, archaeologists rely on primary data and scholarly secondary sources rather than non-academic popular accounts.

132. (D) Data processing

Data processing is the stage of research where raw information collected in the field is systematically organized and prepared for analysis. This involves converting measurements, drawings, and handwritten notes into structured digital or physical formats. It also includes the cleaning and cataloging of artifacts. By processing data in this way, researchers ensure that the evidence is accurate, accessible, and manageable. Proper data processing is a critical bridge between the initial recovery of information and its final scientific interpretation.

133. (C) Photogrammetry

Photogrammetry is a powerful digital imaging technique used in archaeology to create highly accurate three-dimensional models of sites and artifacts. It involves taking numerous overlapping photographs from different angles and using specialized software to stitch them together based on shared points. This process results in a detailed spatial record that can be used for mapping, analysis, and virtual reconstruction. Photogrammetry is a significant application of Information and Communication Technology, providing a non-invasive and high-resolution method for documenting archaeological heritage.

134. (B) Research ethics

The principle of non-maleficence, or the obligation to do no harm, is a cornerstone of research ethics in archaeology. This requires researchers to ensure that their work does not damage the archaeological record, negatively impact the artifacts, or cause harm to living descendant communities. Ethical research also involves the responsible management of safety and data. Maintaining high ethical standards ensures that investigations are conducted with integrity and respect, protecting both the physical heritage of the past and the interests of the present.

135. (A) (2), (4), (1), (3)

An archaeological research project follows a logical chronological sequence to ensure scientific rigor. It begins with the identification of a problem and the formulation of a hypothesis. Once the goals are set, fieldwork is conducted for data collection. This raw data is then analyzed and interpreted to evaluate the hypothesis. Finally, the findings are shared with the broader community through the dissemination of results, such as publication. This structured approach

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ensures that research is purposeful, transparent, and verifiable.

136. (A) It allows other researchers to verify, critique, and build upon the work.

The systematic presentation of results is fundamental to the advancement of archaeology as a scientific discipline. By clearly documenting their methods and findings in reports and publications, researchers enable other scholars to critically evaluate their work. This transparency allows for the verification of results and provides a solid foundation for others to build upon. Scientific progress depends on this collective process of review and cumulative knowledge building, ensuring that archaeological interpretations are constantly refined and improved through open communication.

137. (C) Iron tools adoption increased agriculture, which enlarged storage pits.

A good research hypothesis is a specific, testable statement that proposes a relationship between variables. This example is well-formulated because it offers a clear causal link that an archaeologist can evaluate using physical evidence, such as the appearance of iron tools, changes in plant remains, and the size of storage features. Unlike vague statements or unanswerable questions, this hypothesis provides a direct guide for data collection and analysis, allowing for an objective evaluation through scientific investigation.

138. (A) It being a critical and self-critical enquiry

The peer-review process is a vital component of academic research that embodies its critical and self-critical nature. Before a study is published, it is examined by independent experts who evaluate the methodology, evidence, and conclusions. This rigorous review identifies potential errors and ensures the work meets established professional standards. By subjecting their findings to external critique, researchers demonstrate a commitment to objective truth and high scholarly quality. This self-regulating mechanism is essential for maintaining the reliability of scientific knowledge.

139. (D) A case study

A comprehensive and detailed study of a specific location like Bhimbetka, which explores its unique features and historical context in depth, is a classic example of a case study. This approach allows researchers to examine multiple aspects of the site, such as its rock art styles and chronology, to build a holistic understanding of that particular entity. Case studies are valuable in archaeology because they provide detailed, situated knowledge that contributes to our broader understanding of human cultural development in specific regions.

140. (C) P-4, Q-1, R-2, S-3

Ethical violations in research undermine the integrity of scholarly work. Plagiarism involves taking another's work without credit, while fabrication is the complete invention of false data. Falsification involves manipulating or omitting real data to distort findings. A conflict of interest arises when personal or financial interests could potentially bias a researcher's professional judgment. Understanding these violations is essential for maintaining the high standards of honesty and transparency required in all scientific and academic investigations, ensuring the reliability of the research record.

141. (C) Research Design

The research design is the essential planning document created at the beginning of an archaeological project. It outlines the specific research questions, the objectives of the study, and the detailed methodology for collecting and analyzing data. By providing this strategic blueprint, the research design ensures that the work is focused and systematic. This initial phase is critical for determining the feasibility of the project and ensuring that the subsequent fieldwork and analysis will effectively address the central research problems.

142. (D) A chapter in a textbook describing the skeleton.

Primary data in archaeology consists of the original physical evidence and the immediate records created during its discovery. A human skeleton, field notes describing its context, and in situ photographs are all primary sources because they provide direct evidence from the investigation. In contrast, a chapter in a textbook is a secondary source. It provides a later summary and interpretation of the primary data recorded by others. Researchers use secondary sources

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for context, but base their scientific analysis on primary evidence.

143. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

Far from making collaboration difficult, Information and Communication Technology has revolutionized data sharing in archaeology. Digital platforms, online databases, and collaborative software allow researchers to exchange information rapidly across global distances. These tools facilitate the creation of digital archives that are accessible to the international scholarly community, fostering more collaborative and transparent research. The use of ICT has broken down geographical barriers, allowing for a more integrated and efficient approach to studying the human past on a global scale.

144. (B) Methodology

The methodology section of a research paper provides a detailed description of the procedures used to conduct the study. It explains how the data was collected, what specific techniques were used for analysis, and the overall theoretical framework. This section is essential for transparency and replicability, as it allows other scholars to critically evaluate the research and potentially repeat the investigation to verify the results. A clear methodology is a hallmark of scientific rigor, ensuring that findings are based on a disciplined approach.

145. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

In scientific terminology, a hypothesis and a theory serve distinct roles. A hypothesis is a specific, tentative, and testable prediction about a particular phenomenon. In contrast, a theory is a much broader and well-substantiated explanation that has been supported by multiple confirmed hypotheses and a wide body of evidence. While a hypothesis is a starting point for an investigation, a theory represents a high level of scientific understanding. Distinguishing between these two concepts is fundamental for accurate scientific communication.

146. (A) Systematic presentation of quantitative data.

Using charts to display the percentage distribution of artifacts is an effective method for the systematic presentation of quantitative data. By converting numerical information into a visual format, researchers can make trends and comparative relationships immediately clear to their audience. This allows for a more efficient and accessible way to communicate complex findings. Visual aids like these are essential in archaeological reports, as they provide clear evidence to support the interpretations and conclusions presented in the text.

147. (C) The long-term care and preservation of the archaeological record.

Stewardship is a fundamental ethical principle in archaeology focused on the responsible management of the archaeological record for the future. It emphasizes that archaeological materials and the sites they come from are non-renewable resources that belong to humanity. Researchers acting as stewards are committed to the proper curation, conservation, and archiving of artifacts and records. This ensures that the primary evidence of the past remains available for future generations to study and appreciate, fulfilling a long-term public trust.

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148. (D) It must be falsifiable, i.e., testable in a way that it could be proven wrong.

Falsifiability is a key requirement of a scientific hypothesis, meaning that the proposition must be testable through empirical observation. A hypothesis is scientific only if it is phrased in a way that allows for the possibility of being proven incorrect by the evidence. This principle ensures that theories are grounded in reality and can be objectively evaluated. If an idea cannot be tested or challenged, it remains outside the realm of scientific inquiry and is considered speculative.

149. (C) A case study

A case study is a research method characterized by an intensive and in-depth investigation of a single unit, such as an individual, group, site, or event. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the specific case within its unique context. By focusing deeply on one instance, researchers can explore complex relationships and factors that might be lost in larger, more general studies. This method is essential for gathering detailed knowledge that contributes significantly to the broader understanding of human behavior.

application of ethno-archaeology. This research method involves studying living cultures to develop analogies that help interpret the archaeological record. By observing the dynamic actions and techniques of contemporary people, researchers can create more informed models of how ancient technologies might have functioned. This approach provides a valuable way to bridge the gap between static artifacts and the human behaviors that originally produced and used them.

178. (A) Data falsification and a breach of research ethics.

Selectively choosing only the data that supports a preferred hypothesis while ignoring contradictory evidence is known as cherry-picking, which is a form of data falsification. This practice is a major breach of research ethics because it distorts the truth and misleads the scholarly community. Scientific integrity requires that all relevant data be reported and analyzed honestly, even if it challenges the researcher's initial ideas. Transparent and objective reporting is essential for maintaining the reliability of archaeological knowledge.

179. (C) Analyze spatial patterns and relationships on a landscape scale.

Geographic Information Systems are powerful Information and Communication Technology tools that allow archaeologists to analyze spatial relationships across large landscapes. GIS can integrate various datasets, such as site locations and environmental variables, to identify significant patterns of settlement and land use. This spatial analysis helps researchers understand how past societies interacted with their surroundings on a regional scale. By providing a digital platform for complex spatial modeling, GIS significantly enhances the depth and precision of landscape-level archaeological investigations.

180. (D) (2) is incorrect because the introduction should present the final conclusion.

A standard research publication follows a specific logical structure where each component has a defined role. The introduction should state the research problem, objectives, and hypothesis, rather than presenting the final conclusion. The methodology describes the process, the results present the findings, and the bibliography lists the sources. Presenting the final conclusion in the introduction would be premature and skip the essential evidence-based arguments that lead to it. The conclusion belongs at the end of the study.

181. (C) It is a proposed explanation that serves as an investigation starting point.

In the scientific method, a hypothesis is a tentative explanation proposed at the beginning of an investigation. It serves as a starting point that guides the research by providing a specific direction for data collection and analysis. A hypothesis must be testable through empirical observation or experimentation. While it reflects the researcher's initial ideas, it is not a final answer. Instead, the entire research process is designed to evaluate the hypothesis and determine if it is supported by evidence.

182. (B) A secondary source

A biography written by a historian about someone else is considered a secondary source. While it might be based on primary sources like diaries or letters, the biography itself is a later work that provides interpretation and synthesis of the subject's life. Secondary sources are essential for providing historical context and a layer of analytical perspective. In research, these works help scholars understand how a person's life and contributions have been evaluated by others, complementing the direct evidence found in primary documents.

183. (D) Public Education and Dissemination

Public education and dissemination is a core ethical principle requiring archaeologists to share their findings as widely as possible. This involves making research results accessible to non-academic audiences through lectures, museum exhibits, and popular publications. Since the archaeological record is a shared human heritage, researchers have a responsibility to communicate its significance to the community. This principle ensures that knowledge gained from archaeology benefits society as a whole and helps foster a general appreciation and support for heritage preservation.

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also acknowledges the intellectual contributions of other authors, preventing plagiarism. This transparent record allows readers to verify the evidence and follow the author's logical path throughout the study.

157. (C) To test interpretations of past human life based on material evidence.

The fundamental role of archaeological research is to investigate and interpret past human societies through the systematic study of their material remains. This involves more than just collecting objects; it requires using empirical evidence to test and refine theories about how ancient people lived and interacted. By using scientific methods to analyze artifacts and their context, researchers can develop evidence-based narratives of human history. This ongoing process of testing interpretations ensures that our understanding of the past is constantly improved.

158. (C) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true.

A research design must be created before any fieldwork or data collection begins, as it serves as the essential plan guiding the entire investigation. It defines the research questions and specifies the methods for gathering and analyzing evidence to answer them. Without this initial blueprint, research would be unorganized and lacks a clear purpose. The research design ensures that the work is systematic, focused, and scientifically rigorous, providing a structured framework for the successful execution of the project.

159. (A) Experimental archaeology

This research activity is a classic example of experimental archaeology. By creating marks on modern bones using replica tools and comparing them to ancient remains, researchers use practical experimentation to test theories about past butchery practices. This empirical approach provides a way to understand the physical processes that created the archaeological record. It bridges the gap between static material remains and the dynamic human actions of the past, allowing for more accurate and evidence-based interpretations of ancient behaviors.

160. (B) (3), (4), (1), (2)

In the research process, data-related activities follow a logical and chronological sequence. First, raw information is gathered through data collection activities like excavation or survey. This information is then systematically organized and cleaned during data processing. Once the data is in a manageable format, data analysis is conducted to identify patterns and test hypotheses. Finally, the results and interpretations are organized for data presentation in reports and publications. This structured progression ensures that research is thorough and verifiable.

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161. (B) Commercial exploitation of finds for personal profit.

Ethical archaeological research is guided by principles of stewardship, accountability, and the public dissemination of knowledge. These principles emphasize the preservation of the archaeological record as a shared human resource. Conversely, the commercial exploitation or sale of artifacts for profit is a major ethical violation. It encourages looting, leads to the destruction of scientific context, and treats cultural heritage as a commodity. Ethical standards require that finds be curated and managed for scientific research and public education.

162. (A) Because if it cannot be tested, it remains a matter of belief.

A hypothesis must be testable to be considered a legitimate part of the scientific process. Testability means that the proposition can be evaluated through empirical observation or experimentation to see if it is supported by evidence. If a statement cannot be tested, it remains speculative and cannot be objectively proven or disproven, placing it outside the realm of scientific inquiry. This requirement ensures that archaeological interpretations are grounded in reality and subject to verification by the scholarly community.

163. (C) Primary sources

The original records created during an excavation, such as context sheets, site plans, and photographs, are essential primary sources. They provide a direct and immediate record of the findings and their spatial relationships at the moment of discovery. Because excavation is a destructive process, these primary records are the only permanent evidence of the site's original state. They are indispensable for any future

analysis or re-evaluation of the investigation, forming the foundational documentation for all subsequent interpretations.

164. (D) To explain the symbols and colors used on the map.

A legend or key is a critical component of any map used in a research report. Its primary function is to provide clear explanations for the different symbols, colors, and line types used to represent archaeological features or data points. Without a legend, the map's content would be difficult for the reader to interpret accurately. Proper labeling ensures that visual data is presented in a systematic and understandable way, which is essential for effectively communicating spatial information and findings.

165. (B) P-2, Q-4, R-3, S-1

Archaeological research incorporates various fundamental concepts into its practice. A potsherd in its original stratigraphic context serves as a primary source of evidence. Using GIS for spatial analysis is a significant application of Information and Communication Technology. Obtaining informed consent from a local community is a core research ethic, ensuring respect for stakeholders. Finally, experimental archaeology is a specific research method used to understand past technologies. Together, these elements form a comprehensive and professional approach to investigating the past.

166. (B) It involves the systematic recovery of data and its context.

The most defining characteristic of archaeological field investigation is the systematic and controlled recovery of data, with a specific focus on its stratigraphic context. This process involves more than just finding objects; it requires meticulous documentation of exactly where each find was located in relation to others. This contextual information is essential for determining the age and meaning of archaeological remains. Modern fieldwork is a disciplined scientific inquiry guided by established methodologies to ensure that the recovered information is reliable.

167. (D) To ensure investigated areas represent the entire region.

In large-scale regional surveys, a sampling strategy is a vital part of the research design. It provides a systematic method for selecting a smaller, representative portion of the landscape to investigate when a total survey is not feasible. By using statistically valid sampling, researchers can ensure that the data collected accurately reflects the patterns and variations of the entire region. This approach increases the efficiency of the fieldwork while maintaining the scientific rigor necessary for making valid archaeological interpretations.

168. (A) Inventing radiocarbon dates that support a desired chronology.

Data fabrication is a major ethical violation involving the intentional creation of false information and presenting it as genuine results. An example would be making up radiocarbon dates to fit a preferred theory rather than reporting actual laboratory findings. This deceptive practice undermines the foundation of scientific research and misleads the scholarly community. Maintaining integrity in archaeology requires the honest and accurate recording of all evidence, ensuring that conclusions are based on real observations rather than manufactured falsehoods.

169. (C) To make trends or patterns in the data easier to understand.

The systematic presentation of data in graphical form, such as using line graphs or bar charts, is designed to make complex information more accessible. Visual aids allow researchers to illustrate trends, relationships, and comparative patterns that might be difficult to grasp from raw numerical tables or text alone. By using these tools, archaeologists can communicate their findings more effectively to their audience. Clear graphical presentation provides strong visual evidence that supports the interpretations and conclusions reached in the study.

170. (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Archaeologists have an ethical obligation to publish their findings because excavation is a destructive process that permanently alters a site. Meticulous documentation and subsequent publication are the only ways to preserve the

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information gained for the scholarly community and the public. Without publication, the unique data recovered is effectively lost to everyone but the original researcher. Sharing results fulfills the archaeologist's responsibility as a steward of cultural heritage, ensuring that the research contributes to the collective knowledge.

171. (D) A longitudinal study

A longitudinal study is a research design that involves repeatedly observing the same subjects, sites, or phenomena over an extended period of time. This approach allows researchers to track changes, developments, and long-term trends. In archaeology, this might involve monitoring site erosion or the long-term impact of environmental factors on archaeological remains. Longitudinal studies provide valuable insights into dynamic processes that cannot be captured by short-term investigations, offering a deeper understanding of cultural or environmental change over decades or centuries.

172. (B) The efficient management and analysis of large datasets.

Relational database systems are powerful Information and Communication Technology tools that have revolutionized archaeological data management. They allow researchers to organize, store, and cross-reference massive amounts of information about artifacts, features, and their contexts. By using these systems, archaeologists can perform complex queries to identify significant patterns and relationships that would be impossible to find manually. This digital approach to data processing significantly enhances the precision, efficiency, and depth of analysis in modern, data-heavy archaeological research projects.

173. (C) Primary sources provide firsthand evidence; secondary sources analyze them.

The fundamental distinction between primary and secondary sources lies in their proximity to the evidence. Primary sources, such as artifacts and original field notes, provide direct, firsthand evidence from the period or discovery under study. Secondary sources, such as academic articles and monographs, represent later interpretations, discussions, and syntheses of that primary evidence. While primary sources are the foundational materials for any investigation, secondary sources provide the essential scholarly context and analytical framework for understanding the significance of those finds.

174. (D) Synthesize the findings and relate them to the hypothesis.

The conclusion of a research paper is the final opportunity to synthesize the entire study. It should summarize the key findings from the analysis and clearly relate them back to the original hypotheses and research questions. A good conclusion explains the broader significance of the results and situates the study within the existing body of archaeological knowledge. It should avoid introducing major new evidence, focusing instead on providing a logical and evidence-based summary of the project's specific contributions.

175. (A) (1), (2) and (3) only

Academic research is defined by being systematic, logical, and firmly grounded in empirical evidence. It must utilize transparent procedures that allow for verification or replication by other scholars. These characteristics ensure that research findings are reliable and scientifically valid. Conversely, in the scientific method, conclusions are never considered absolute truths that cannot be questioned. Instead, they remain open to revision or rejection as new data and more refined analytical techniques become available, ensuring the continuous growth of knowledge.

176. (B) The final, confirmed answer to the research question.

A research design is a strategic plan created at the beginning of a project, and therefore it cannot include the final answer, which is only determined after data collection and analysis. A comprehensive design must include the central research question, the detailed methodology for collecting and analyzing evidence, and a realistic timeline and budget. By providing this structured blueprint, the research design ensures that the investigation is focused and purposeful, but the results themselves remain to be discovered.

177. (B) Ethno-archaeology

Observing a modern traditional potter to understand past ceramic technologies is a classic

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This approach is essential for understanding the specific dynamics of past human societies.

122. (A) Primary data is collected firsthand, while secondary data is from others.

In research, primary data refers to original information collected directly by the researcher through activities like excavation, survey, or laboratory analysis. It is the raw evidence gathered firsthand for a specific project. Secondary data, conversely, is information that has been previously collected and interpreted by other people. This includes data found in published excavation reports, monographs, or academic articles. Both types of data are important, but they serve different roles in the evidence-based process of archaeological investigation.

123. (D) Data processing and analysis.

A Harris Matrix is a specialized tool used during the data processing and analysis phase to visualize stratigraphic relationships. By organizing soil layers and features into a logical diagram, researchers can determine the relative chronological sequence of an excavation. This allows for a clearer understanding of how a site developed over time. The Harris Matrix is an essential part of the analytical process, helping archaeologists interpret the complex physical records recovered during fieldwork and providing a foundation for dating and synthesis.

124. (B) It is a powerful tool for collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Information and Communication Technology plays a comprehensive role in modern archaeological research. It provides tools for efficient data collection in the field, such as GPS and digital recording systems. In the laboratory, specialized software facilitates complex data analysis, while digital platforms and the internet allow for the rapid dissemination of findings to a global audience. Far from replacing traditional skills, ICT enhances every stage of the research process, making investigations more precise, efficient, and accessible than ever before.

125. (1), (2) and (4) only

Ethical obligations in research are centered on honesty, respect, and responsibility. Plagiarism must be avoided through proper attribution of others' work. Informed consent should always be sought when working with relevant descendant communities. Furthermore, archaeologists are responsible for the long-term conservation of recovered artifacts and records. Conversely, manipulating data to fit a desired outcome is a major ethical violation. Adhering to these principles ensures that research is conducted with integrity and maintains public and professional trust in the discipline.

126. (D) A complete list of all sources cited in the research paper.

A bibliography is a fundamental part of the systematic presentation of results, providing a complete and organized list of all the sources cited within a research paper. It includes full details for books, articles, reports, and other materials used to support the study. By providing this list, the author allows readers to verify the evidence and acknowledges the contributions of other scholars. Proper bibliographic recording is essential for maintaining academic integrity and facilitating future research on the topic.

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127. (A) Empirical

The empirical characteristic of research emphasizes that all conclusions must be based on observable and measurable evidence from the real world. In archaeology, this means that theories about past human behavior must be supported by data gathered through fieldwork and laboratory analysis. By relying on physical evidence rather than abstract speculation, researchers ensure their findings are objective and verifiable. This commitment to empirical data is the foundation of scientific inquiry and is essential for building a reliable understanding of history.

128. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

The primary aim of archaeological field investigation is the systematic recovery of data along with its precise context. Context refers to the exact location and spatial relationships of an artifact within the soil layers. This information is absolutely critical for interpretation, as it provides the evidence needed to determine the age, function, and meaning of a find. Without context, an artifact loses most of its scientific value. Modern archaeology prioritizes the

184. (A) Data processing

Data processing is the stage of research where raw materials from an excavation are systematically prepared for analysis. This includes several essential laboratory tasks such as washing, sorting, and labeling artifacts with their precise context information. By organizing the finds in this way, researchers transform a collection of objects into a structured and manageable dataset. Proper data processing is a critical bridge between the initial recovery of information and the subsequent stages of analysis and interpretation of the archaeological evidence.

185. (C) Consult with community representatives from the beginning of the project.

The most ethical approach to research design, especially when working in areas with indigenous populations, is to actively consult with the community from the very beginning. This collaborative approach respects the rights and cultural perspectives of descendant communities and ensures that their concerns are addressed in the project planning. Building relationships based on transparency and mutual respect is a fundamental requirement of modern archaeological ethics. Such consultation helps ensure that research is conducted responsibly and benefits both the scientists and the stakeholders.

186. (A) A flint arrowhead recovered from an excavation.

Primary sources in archaeology consist of original evidence and direct records created during an investigation. A physical artifact, like a flint arrowhead, is a primary source because it is direct evidence from the past society being studied. In contrast, university lectures, Wikipedia articles, and documentaries are secondary or tertiary sources because they involve later interpretations and summaries of primary evidence by others. Scientists rely on these physical primary sources to build and test their interpretations of human history.

187. (D) Present data in a clear and easily understandable format.

The primary purpose of using tables and figures in the results section of a research paper is to communicate complex quantitative or spatial information clearly. Visual aids allow researchers to summarize large datasets and highlight significant patterns or trends that might be difficult to grasp from text alone. By organizing information in this systematic way, archaeologists can make their evidence more accessible and transparent to their audience. Clear data presentation is essential for supporting the interpretations and conclusions reached.

188. (B) Research ethics

Research ethics consist of a set of fundamental moral principles that govern a scientist's conduct throughout the entire research process. These principles include honesty, transparency, accountability, and respect for others, including descendant communities. Ethical standards ensure that research is conducted with integrity and that the archaeological record is treated as a public resource. Adhering to these guidelines is essential for maintaining professional standards and public trust, ensuring that archaeological work contributes responsibly and ethically to our understanding of the past.

189. (C) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false.

A case study is an excellent research method for generating detailed, contextualized knowledge about a specific archaeological site or community. However, because it focuses on a single instance, its findings cannot be automatically generalized to all other similar cases. Each archaeological context is shaped by unique environmental, social, and historical factors. While a case study provides deep insights, researchers must be careful not to assume that its results are universally applicable without further comparative evidence from other contexts.

190. (D) To ensure the research process is systematic and targeted toward answers.

The primary objective of creating a research design is to provide a structured and logical framework for the entire project. By outlining the research questions, methodologies, and analytical techniques in advance, researchers ensure that their work is purposeful and focused on achieving specific goals. This systematic approach link the theoretical aims of the study with the practical steps of data collection and analysis. A well-developed design increases

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archaeology, this systematic approach is essential for constructing reliable narratives about the past. By adhering to these characteristics, researchers ensure their work is verifiable and contributes meaningful, evidence-based insights to the scholarly and public understanding of history.

205. (C) The definition of the research problem and objectives.

A fundamental element of any research design is the clear identification of the research problem and the specific objectives of the study. These components define the purpose and scope of the entire project, guiding all subsequent decisions regarding methodology and data collection. Without well-defined objectives, research would lack focus and direction. The design serves as a strategic blueprint that links the intellectual goals of the project with the practical steps required to achieve them, ensuring a systematic and scientific investigation.

206. (D) A case study

An in-depth and multi-faceted study of a single archaeological site over several years is a classic example of a case study. This approach allows researchers to explore the specific complexities of a unique location, such as its social organization, economy, and architecture, in great detail. By focusing on one unit, a case study provides deep, contextualized knowledge that contributes significantly to the broader understanding of a particular period or culture. This intensive investigation offers insights that general surveys often cannot capture.

207. (A) Secondary source

In the context of archaeological research, the original material remains, such as rock art, serve as the primary source of evidence. However, any subsequent publication that provides an interpretation or analysis of that evidence is considered a secondary source. While the researcher's paper is based on primary data, it provides a layer of scholarly evaluation and synthesis. Secondary sources are essential for building a collective understanding of the past, as they present and discuss evidence-based arguments within the broader academic community.

208. (B) The scholarly community, descendant communities, and the public.

Accountability is a fundamental research ethic requiring archaeologists to be answerable for their conduct and findings to multiple groups. They are responsible to their academic peers for maintaining scientific standards and to descendant communities for respecting their cultural heritage and ancestral remains. Furthermore, they are accountable to the public to ensure that archaeological knowledge is shared as a common human legacy. This broad responsibility ensures that research is conducted transparently, ethically, and for the benefit of all relevant stakeholders.

209. (B) Null hypothesis

This statement is an example of a null hypothesis because it proposes that there is no significant relationship or difference between the variables being tested. In scientific research, the null hypothesis serves as a baseline for statistical evaluation. Researchers collect data and use statistical tests to see if they can reject this statement in favor of an alternative explanation. This structured approach helps ensure that any identified patterns in the archaeological record are statistically significant rather than just the result of random variation.

210. (A) To provide a list of all sources consulted and cited by the author.

A bibliography is an essential part of a research report, providing a complete and organized list of all the sources consulted and cited by the researcher. This includes books, journal articles, and reports that provided evidence or informed the study's arguments. By providing this list, the author ensures transparency and allows readers to verify the information. Proper referencing also acknowledges the intellectual contributions of other scholars, which is fundamental to maintaining academic integrity and avoiding any form of plagiarism.

211. (C) Systematic

The systematic characteristic of research implies that it follows a pre-planned, logical sequence of steps from the identification of a problem to the final conclusion. This structured approach

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through direct physical experimentation. It offers valuable insights into the skill, knowledge, and time required for past technological processes that cannot be gained from observation alone.

198. (B) Allow for critical evaluation and replication of the research.

The methodology section of a research paper is essential for maintaining scientific transparency and rigor. By providing a detailed account of how the study was conducted, including the techniques used for data collection and analysis, it allows other scholars to critically evaluate the work. This detailed information also enables other researchers to repeat or replicate the study to verify the findings. A clear and honest methodology ensures that the research process is open to scrutiny, which is fundamental to scientific inquiry.

199. (D) It means observations or experiments could potentially prove it wrong.

Falsifiability is a core requirement of a scientific hypothesis, meaning it must be phrased so that it can be tested against empirical evidence. A hypothesis is falsifiable if there is a logical possibility that an observation or experiment could prove it to be incorrect. This principle ensures that scientific theories are grounded in measurable reality and are subject to objective evaluation. If a statement cannot be challenged by evidence, it remains speculative and is not considered a valid scientific proposition.

200. (A) Secondary source

A review article that summarizes the current state of knowledge by citing numerous primary studies is considered a secondary source. While it uses primary data as its foundation, the article itself provides a layer of expert analysis, synthesis, and interpretation. These works are essential for providing a comprehensive overview of a topic and for identifying broader trends and research gaps. Secondary sources help situating individual studies within the larger academic discourse, making them valuable for students and researchers exploring a specific archaeological problem.

201. (C) Failing to properly store artifacts, leading to their decay.

Stewardship is an ethical principle emphasizing the long-term care and preservation of the archaeological record as a public resource. Failing to properly curate and store artifacts, which results in their damage or decay, is a direct violation of this principle. Archaeologists have a responsibility to act as caretakers of heritage, ensuring that physical remains and their records are preserved for future study. Neglect of these duties undermines the scientific and cultural value of archaeological materials for everyone, including future generations.

202. (A) Data analysis

The use of specialized computer programs to identify patterns in the chemical composition of artifacts is a significant application of Information and Communication Technology in the data analysis phase. These digital tools allow researchers to perform complex statistical tests and comparisons across very large datasets that would be impossible to handle manually. By using ICT for analysis, archaeologists can discover subtle patterns and relationships in the data, leading to more precise and sophisticated interpretations of ancient trade, manufacturing, and social organization.

203. (D) To provide a brief, clear explanation of the graphic content.

A caption is an essential component of the systematic presentation of results, providing a concise and clear explanation of the information contained in a figure or table. It helps the reader understand what the graphic represents and what key data points are being highlighted. Proper captions ensure that visual aids are self-explanatory and contribute effectively to the overall narrative of the research report. Clear and informative labeling is a hallmark of professional academic writing, enhancing the transparency and impact of the study.

204. (B) Role and characteristics of research

Research is defined by its role as a systematic, methodical, and ethical process of inquiry aimed at increasing knowledge and solving problems. These characteristics ensure that the investigation is conducted with scientific rigor and integrity. Research follows established procedures to gather and analyze evidence objectively. In

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features, researchers can enhance the clarity and overall quality of their academic and professional publications.

245. (C) Acknowledge the result and revise their understanding.

An ethical researcher recognizes that scientific inquiry is an open-ended process where hypotheses are subject to evaluation by empirical evidence. If the data collected does not support their initial ideas, they will honestly acknowledge the result and adjust their conclusions accordingly. This commitment to truth ensures that the research process remains objective and that the collective understanding of the past is refined based on real observations. Scientific progress depends on this willingness to let the evidence guide the final interpretations rather than distorting facts.

246. (B) To provide a structured framework linking research questions to execution.

The primary function of a research design is to act as a strategic framework that systematically links the initial research questions with the practical steps required to answer them. It outlines the specific methodologies for data collection and analysis, ensuring that every part of the project has a clear purpose. By providing this structured blueprint, the research design increases the efficiency and scientific rigor of the entire investigation. This proactive planning is essential for ensuring that the final results effectively address the central research problems.

247. (D) Ethno-archaeology

Studying modern pastoralist groups to inform models of prehistoric mobility is a classic application of ethno-archaeology. This research method uses observations of living societies to develop ethnographic analogies that help explain the archaeological record. By observing the dynamic relationships between contemporary people and their landscapes, researchers can create more informed models of how past societies might have functioned. This approach provides a valuable way to bridge the gap between static material remains and the complex human behaviors that produced and discarded them.

248. (A) Plagiarism

Creating a detailed and accurate bibliography is an essential part of academic writing that prevents any form of plagiarism. By providing a clear list of all the sources consulted and cited, a researcher acknowledges the intellectual contributions of other authors whose work has informed the study. Proper referencing also allows readers to verify the evidence and trace the author's logical path. Maintaining these standards of transparency and attribution is fundamental to academic integrity and to the collaborative process of scientific inquiry and discovery.

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249. (C) Washing, sorting, and cataloging pottery sherds.

Data processing is the stage in archaeological research where raw materials recovered from the field are systematically prepared for analysis. Activities like washing, sorting, and cataloging pottery sherds involve organizing the evidence into logical groups and recording their precise context information. This transformation of raw finds into a structured dataset is essential for subsequent scientific study. Proper data processing ensures that all information is accurate, accessible, and manageable, providing a reliable foundation for the interpretation and analysis of the human past.

250. (A) Contribute to the body of knowledge about the human past.

The ultimate goal of the systematic presentation of archaeological research is to share scientifically rigorous findings that contribute to the collective understanding of human history. By organizing results into clear and verifiable reports and publications, researchers enable others to learn from, critique, and build upon their work. This open communication is fundamental to the scientific process, ensuring that the evidence gained from individual investigations contributes to the broader narratives about how past human societies functioned, adapted, and changed over time.

251. (B) To reconstruct past human behaviours and societal patterns.

Archaeological research transcends the mere collection of historical items by focusing on the systematic reconstruction of past human lives and

ensures that data collection and analysis are conducted in a disciplined and consistent manner. By following established methodologies, researchers can minimize biases and errors, producing results that are scientifically rigorous and verifiable. Being systematic is essential for transforming a collection of information into a dependable body of scholarly knowledge that others can objectively evaluate.

212. (D) The theoretical framework and principles guiding research methods.

In the context of research, methodology refers to the comprehensive theoretical framework and the principles that guide the choice and application of specific research methods. It provides the logical and scientific justification for how an investigation is conducted. Methodology encompasses more than just the physical tools used; it includes the rules of evidence and the analytical approach used to interpret data. A clear methodology is essential for ensuring that research is scientifically sound and that its conclusions are logically supported by the evidence.

213. (C) To assess logistics and site condition for the research design.

A preliminary site visit, or reconnaissance, is a critical step in the early stages of planning a field investigation. Its primary purpose is to assess the practical logistics, such as access and terrain, and the actual condition of the archaeological site. This firsthand information is essential for developing a realistic and effective research design. By understanding the site's characteristics in advance, researchers can better choose appropriate methodologies and plan their resources, ensuring that the subsequent fieldwork is conducted efficiently and systematically.

214. (B) Data processing and presentation.

Using digital tools like Computer-Aided Design (CAD) is a significant application of Information and Communication Technology in the data processing and presentation stages of research. These programs allow archaeologists to transform raw field sketches and measurements into precise, high-quality site plans and section drawings. These digital formats are highly accurate and can be easily shared and incorporated into formal reports and publications. Using CAD enhances the clarity and professionalism of archaeological documentation, ensuring that findings are presented in a clear and systematic visual manner.

215. (D) Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious ethical violation in all forms of scholarly research. it occurs when an individual presents the work, ideas, or language of another person as their own without providing proper credit or acknowledgment. This deceptive practice undermines the foundation of academic integrity and intellectual honesty. Maintaining professional standards requires researchers to be transparent about their sources, ensuring that all contributors to the existing body of knowledge are accurately and fairly attributed for their specific intellectual contributions and original evidence.

216. (A) Systematic presentation of primary data

Presenting radiocarbon dates in a structured table with all relevant laboratory and contextual information is a core part of the systematic presentation of primary data. This clear organization allows readers to examine and verify the raw evidence used to support chronological interpretations. By providing this data transparently, researchers maintain scientific rigor and academic integrity. Such visual aids are essential in archaeological reporting, as they allow the audience to grasp complex numerical information and evaluate the logical basis for the study's overall conclusions.

217. (C) Guesswork without evidence

Legitimate archaeological research must be grounded in empirical evidence and follow recognized scientific methodologies. Methods such as ethno-archaeology, experimental archaeology, and case studies are all disciplined approaches used to investigate the past. Conversely, making claims based on mere guesswork without supporting evidence is not a valid research practice. Scientific inquiry requires that all conclusions be logically derived from data that is gathered through systematic observation or experimentation. This objective approach ensures that interpretations are reliable and subject to verification.

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from the historical period being studied. As an original document created at the time, it provides firsthand information about the political, social, and linguistic context of its era. Primary sources are the essential foundational materials for any historical or archaeological investigation. For researchers, these original remains are the most direct evidence available, upon which all subsequent analyses, interpretations, and secondary publications are based and evaluated.

232. (A) Data processing

Using specialized software to correct distortions in aerial photographs is an application of Information and Communication Technology in the data processing stage of research. This process transforms raw images into accurate digital maps that can be used for spatial analysis. By cleaning and organizing digital data in this way, researchers ensure that their evidence is precise and manageable before the actual analysis begins. Proper data processing is a critical bridge that ensures the final results are based on accurate and reliable primary information.

233. (C) Interpret results and explain their general significance.

The discussion section of a research paper is where the researcher interprets the findings and explains their broader significance for the field. It relates the specific results back to the original hypotheses and to previous scholarship on the topic. This section explores the implications of the findings and may discuss any unexpected results or limitations of the study. By providing this critical synthesis, the discussion helps the audience understand how the study contributes to the overall advancement of archaeological knowledge.

234. (A) Ignoring evidence that contradicts one's preferred theory.

Deliberately ignoring or omitting data that does not support a researcher's preferred theory is a major violation of research ethics. Scientific integrity requires that all relevant evidence be reported and analyzed honestly, regardless of whether it supports or refutes the initial hypothesis. Selective reporting distorts the truth and prevents the objective advancement of knowledge. Ethical research is based on a commitment to transparency and objective inquiry, ensuring that conclusions are founded on a complete and honest examination of all available evidence.

235. (D) Identifying a research problem or question.

The very first step in any archaeological research project is the clear identification of a specific research problem or a question that requires an answer. This initial focus provides the purpose and direction for the entire investigation. Once a clear question is defined, researchers can proceed to develop a structured research design, choose appropriate methodologies, and plan for data collection. Starting with a well-defined problem ensures that the subsequent scientific inquiry is purposeful and contributes meaningful knowledge to the discipline.

236. (B) Regional case study

A detailed investigation of settlement patterns within a large, defined area like the Ghaggar-Hakra river basin is an example of a regional case study. This approach allows researchers to examine the spatial and chronological complexities of multiple sites and their environmental context within a specific landscape. By focusing on a whole region, this type of study provides a holistic understanding of social and economic organization over time. Case studies at this scale offer valuable insights into the dynamic relationship between past societies and their surroundings.

237. (C) Secondary source

When a researcher uses data that has already been analyzed and published in someone else's excavation report, they are utilizing a secondary source. While the original data may be primary, the published report represents a later stage of processing and interpretation. Secondary sources are essential for building a broader understanding of a topic by synthesizing the work of many different investigators. However, professional researchers must always acknowledge the original source of the data to maintain academic integrity and provide proper credit for the work.

238. (D) Information and Communication Technology provides software for high-quality charts and reports.

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GPS, archaeologists can ensure that the primary evidence they recover is accurately situated within its broader environmental and cultural landscape, which is fundamental for modern scientific archaeological research.

225. (B) Systematic referencing

Maintaining a bibliography formatted according to a specific style is a core component of systematic referencing in academic writing. This practice ensures that all sources used in a research paper are cited consistently and completely. Systematic referencing allows readers to easily locate the original evidence and acknowledges the contributions of previous scholars. It is a fundamental requirement for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty. By following a standard style, researchers demonstrate their professionalism and adherence to the established norms of scientific and scholarly communication.

226. (A) It is based on observable and measurable evidence.

Empirical research is a defining characteristic of archaeology, meaning that all scientific claims must be based on evidence that can be observed and measured in the real world. This data is gathered through systematic methods like fieldwork and laboratory analysis. By relying on empirical evidence rather than personal opinion or abstract logic alone, researchers ensure their findings are objective and subject to verification by others. This commitment to measurable data is essential for building a reliable and scientific understanding of past human societies.

227. (C) An experimental archaeological study

Replicating ancient technologies, such as bronze casting, to understand the processes and variables involved is a classic application of experimental archaeology. This research method uses practical experimentation to test theories about how ancient remains were produced and used. By observing modern replications, researchers can gain empirical insights into fuel consumption, temperature control, and skill levels required for past manufacturing. This hands-on approach provides a valuable way to explain the archaeological record through direct, physical testing of technological processes and behaviors.

228. (D) Being truthful in all aspects of research and reporting.

Intellectual honesty is a core principle of research ethics that requires scientists to be completely truthful throughout the entire investigation. This includes the honest recording of data, the objective analysis of results, and the transparent reporting of all findings, including those that contradict their initial ideas. Ethical researchers avoid any form of deception, such as fabricating data or plagiarizing the work of others. Maintaining intellectual honesty ensures the reliability of scientific knowledge and maintains public trust in the integrity of the archaeological profession.

229. (C) Results/Findings

The results or findings section of a research report is where the analyzed data is systematically presented to the audience. This section contains the evidence used to support the study's conclusions, often presented through a combination of descriptive text and visual aids like maps, graphs, and tables. By organizing findings in this way, researchers allow others to examine and evaluate the evidence clearly. Clear and thorough presentation of results is essential for maintaining scientific transparency and for providing the logical basis for the final interpretations.

230. (B) Blueprint

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A research design is best described as a blueprint because it provides the essential strategic plan for an entire project. It serves as a structural framework that links the initial research questions with the specific methods for data collection and analysis. By providing this detailed plan before the work begins, researchers ensure that their investigation is systematic, focused, and efficient. Like a construction blueprint, the research design guides every action throughout the process, ensuring that the final results effectively address the original problem.

231. (D) Primary source

An Ashokan rock inscription is a classic example of a primary source because it is direct evidence

efficiency and ensures that the final results effectively address the central research problems.

191. (A) Problem solutions often lead to new research problems.

Research is described as cyclical because it is an ongoing process of inquiry where the conclusion of one study often creates the starting point for the next. As archaeologists solve specific problems or answer initial questions, their findings frequently reveal new gaps in knowledge, anomalies, or deeper questions that require further investigation. This continuous cycle ensures that archaeological knowledge is constantly expanding and being refined. Each research project contributes to a cumulative process of learning and scientific discovery.

192. (B) Failing to obtain permission to excavate on private land.

Conducting archaeological fieldwork without the proper legal and ethical permissions is an unacceptable practice. This includes failing to obtain consent from landowners or government authorities. Such actions are a violation of professional ethics and can damage the reputation of the entire discipline. Ethical research requires transparency and respect for the rights of all stakeholders. Obtaining necessary permits ensures that investigations are conducted legally and responsibly, respecting both private property and public heritage regulations.

193. (B) Review of existing literature and observation of a phenomenon.

The formulation of a research hypothesis typically begins with the identification of a specific problem or the observation of a phenomenon that requires explanation. To develop a well-informed hypothesis, researchers conduct a thorough review of the existing literature to see what is already known about the topic. This initial phase provides the necessary context and foundation for proposing a testable explanation. Starting with these foundational steps ensures that the hypothesis is grounded in previous scholarship and focused on the research problem.

194. (A) Context

The information recorded on an artifact bag, such as the site name, trench number, and soil layer, is absolutely critical primary data. This information defines the artifact's stratigraphic context, which is essential for determining its relative age and its relationship to other finds. Context is what provides the scientific and historical meaning to an object. Without this meticulously recorded information, an artifact becomes an isolated curiosity, losing most of its value for scientific analysis and for reconstructing the past human actions.

195. (C) Primary data collection

Using a Total Station to record the exact three-dimensional location of artifacts is a key part of primary data collection in modern archaeology. This technology allows researchers to capture highly accurate spatial information about finds and features as they are uncovered. This digital recording ensures that the stratigraphic context is documented with great precision. Capturing this data during the fieldwork phase provides the foundational evidence necessary for subsequent spatial analysis and for creating accurate site plans and models of the investigation.

196. (D) Bar chart or pie chart

Visual aids like bar charts or pie charts are the most effective way to present the relative frequencies of different categories, such as animal species, found at a site. These formats allow researchers to summarize quantitative data clearly and show comparative relationships at a glance. By using these visual tools, archaeologists can communicate complex numerical information more effectively than through narrative text alone. Clear and systematic data presentation in these formats is essential for supporting interpretations about ancient diets and environments.

197. (C) Experimental archaeology involving process replication

Experimental archaeology is the best research method for understanding how ancient technologies, like bead-making, were performed. By practically replicating the manufacturing process using replica tools and materials, researchers can test theories about the techniques used and the challenges involved. This empirical approach provides a way to explain the material remains found in the archaeological record

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Information and Communication Technology plays a vital role in the systematic presentation of results by providing sophisticated tools for creating high-quality visual aids and formal reports. Software for word processing, database management, and graphic design allows researchers to present their quantitative and qualitative data clearly and professionally. Digital platforms also facilitate the rapid dissemination of these findings to a global audience. By using ICT, archaeologists can enhance the clarity, accessibility, and overall impact of their research, ensuring that their work is effectively communicated.

239. (A) To demonstrate transparency and allow for replicability.

The methodology or methods section of a research paper is fundamental for maintaining scientific rigor and transparency. By providing a detailed account of how the study was conducted, including the techniques used for data collection and analysis, it allows other scholars to critically evaluate the investigation. This level of detail is essential for replicability, enabling other researchers to potentially repeat the study to verify the results. A clear methods section ensures that conclusions are based on a disciplined and transparent research process.

240. (B) Stratigraphic analysis during data processing

Determining the relative sequence of cultural layers is a core task of stratigraphic analysis, which is part of the data processing and analysis phase of research. By examining the physical superposition of layers, archaeologists can establish a chronological framework for the site. This allows for an understanding of how different human activities and environmental events followed each other over time. Stratigraphic analysis transforms the raw physical record of an excavation into a structured temporal narrative, providing an essential foundation for interpretation.

241. (B) The study of past societies through their material remains.

Archaeology is fundamentally defined as the scientific study of past human societies through the systematic recovery and analysis of their material remains. This includes artifacts, architecture, and environmental evidence that were produced and used by people in the past. While other disciplines may focus on written texts or biological evolution, archaeology uses physical objects and their spatial context to reconstruct ancient lives and behaviors. This material-based approach allows for a unique and objective perspective on human history across all periods and cultures.

242. (A) An in-depth, intensive investigation of a single unit or instance.

A case study is a specialized research method characterized by its intensive and detailed investigation of a specific, bounded unit, such as a single archaeological site, community, or event. It aims to explore the unique complexities of that particular case within its real-world context. Unlike broader surveys that look for general patterns across many sites, the case study provides deep, situated knowledge. This approach is essential for understanding how specific social, environmental, and historical factors interacted to produce unique cultural outcomes.

243. (C) Primary data

The first draft of a site report, which includes original field drawings, notes, and artifact lists created during the excavation, is considered primary data. These records provide a direct and immediate account of the evidence found and its spatial context. As unmediated documentation from the discovery process, they serve as the foundational materials for all subsequent analysis and interpretation. Primary data like this is essential for future researchers to examine, verify, and re-evaluate the findings of an original archaeological investigation.

244. (D) Systematic presentation of results

Using basic word processing features like spell-checkers and grammar-checkers is a simple but important application of Information and Communication Technology in the systematic presentation of results. These tools help ensure that final reports, articles, and monographs are professional, clear, and free from errors. Maintaining high standards of written communication is essential for effectively sharing research findings with the scholarly community and the public. By using these ICT

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218. (A) A primary data source for ethno-archaeological research

Oral history interviews are considered a valuable primary data source when used within an ethno-archaeological research framework. This information is collected firsthand by the researcher and provides direct evidence of traditional knowledge and land use practices. While not material remains, these oral accounts offer dynamic insights that can help explain patterns in the archaeological record or assist in locating ancient sites. Using such evidence respectfully and systematically is a recognized way to enrich archaeological investigations and build more holistic models of the human past.

219. (D) It ensures that data collection is structured and efficient.

A research design must be developed before starting fieldwork to provide a systematic and focused approach to data collection. It links the theoretical research questions with the practical steps required in the field, ensuring that the work remains targeted toward achieving its specific goals. By outlining the methods and procedures in advance, researchers can use their time and resources more efficiently. This strategic planning is essential for maintaining scientific rigor and ensuring that the project can produce reliable evidence-based results.

220. (B) Introducing significant new evidence for the first time.

The conclusion of a research paper should be a synthesis of the work already presented and analyzed. It should summarize the key findings and relate them back to the original hypotheses. Introducing significant new data for the first time in the conclusion is poor academic practice, as it prevents the evidence from being properly analyzed and discussed within the body of the paper. A well-structured report ensures that all evidence is presented and interpreted before the final summary and broad conclusions.

221. (C) To ensure proper curation and conservation of artifacts and records.

A key ethical requirement for archaeologists is the responsible curation and long-term conservation of the artifacts and records they recover. Because the archaeological record is a non-renewable resource, researchers have a duty to ensure that the primary evidence they collect is preserved for future generations to study and appreciate. This stewardship involves proper storage, treatment, and archiving. Fulfilling these responsibilities ensures that archaeological heritage remains a scientifically and culturally valuable resource, rather than being lost through neglect after the initial investigation.

222. (D) Research objective, a key part of a research design.

This statement clearly defines what the researcher intends to achieve during the investigation, making it a research objective. Stating these goals is a fundamental part of creating a research design, as it provides a focused purpose for the entire study. Objectives guide the selection of methodologies and help determine what types of data are needed. By having well-defined objectives, researchers can ensure their work is systematic and purposeful, leading to a more structured and successful scientific investigation of the human past.

223. (A) Data are raw facts, while information is interpreted data.

In the context of research, a fundamental distinction is made between raw data and interpreted information. Data consists of the raw, unorganized facts and measurements collected during an investigation, such as artifact dimensions or soil color. Information is the result of processing and analyzing that raw data to find meaning, patterns, and relationships. This transformation of data into information through critical interpretation is the core of the research process, allowing archaeologists to build evidence-based knowledge and answer complex questions about history.

224. (B) A hand-held GPS unit

A hand-held GPS unit is a practical example of Information and Communication Technology used during the data collection phase of field investigations. It allows researchers to record the precise geographical coordinates of sites, features, and artifacts with high accuracy. This digital spatial information is essential for mapping and for integrated spatial analysis using GIS. By using

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societal structures. It utilizes material remains to understand complex cultural processes and behaviors. This disciplined inquiry applies scientific methodology to build a comprehensive picture of how ancient civilizations functioned and evolved over time through their physical remains.

252. (A) Observable and verifiable material evidence.

Empiricism within the archaeological context signifies that all scientific conclusions must be firmly rooted in tangible evidence. This includes observable and verifiable data such as artifacts, features, and ecofacts recovered during fieldwork. By prioritizing direct evidence over speculation, researchers ensure that their interpretations of the past remain grounded in physical reality and result from objective scientific investigation.

253. (C) Documenting methods transparently for others to evaluate.

While perfectly repeating archaeological excavations is impossible, the principle of replicability is maintained through meticulous and transparent documentation of all methodologies. Detailed records of data collection and analysis allow the broader scientific community to evaluate research processes. This transparency enables other scholars to verify findings or challenge interpretations, upholding the discipline's rigorous scientific and professional standards.

254. (D) Preserving the finite archaeological record for future generations.

A primary ethical duty in archaeology involves the preservation of the archaeological record, which serves as a finite and non-renewable historical resource. Because excavation is inherently destructive, researchers must act as responsible stewards of the past. This commitment ensures that vital material evidence remains available for future generations of scholars and the public to study and appreciate.

255. (C) They are integrated components of a single, responsible research process.

Contemporary archaeological research functions as a multifaceted discipline where scientific methodology and ethical frameworks are deeply interconnected. Rather than operating independently, these two components work together to ensure that knowledge is built responsibly. This integration allows for rigorous investigation while respecting the finite nature of the archaeological record and the interests of various descendant and stakeholder communities.

256. (B) To act as a strategic plan for the entire research project.

A research design functions as a comprehensive strategic blueprint that guides every stage of an archaeological investigation. It provides a structured plan from the initial question to the final interpretation of data. By outlining specific methodologies and goals in advance, it ensures that fieldwork is efficient, purposeful, and yields meaningful results while minimizing unnecessary and destructive site impact.

257. (D) Articulating a clear research question.

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The initial stage of developing an effective research design is the articulation of a clear and focused research question. This specific question identifies a gap in current historical knowledge and provides the necessary direction for the entire study. All subsequent steps, including hypothesis formulation and methodology selection, are designed to address this fundamental query in a systematic manner.

258. (A) The hypothesis is a provisional answer to the research question.

In a well-structured research design, the hypothesis acts as a provisional and testable statement derived directly from the research question. It proposes a potential relationship between different variables that can be evaluated using empirical evidence. This logical link ensures that data collection efforts are focused specifically on testing a possible explanation for the initial problem-oriented archaeological query.

259. (C) The final conclusions of the study

A research design serves as a preliminary plan for conducting investigation rather than a report of finished findings. While it details study areas, sampling strategies, and data collection techniques, it cannot include final conclusions because these only emerge after the data has

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Ecofacts are classified as natural objects recovered from archaeological contexts that possess significant cultural relevance. Unlike artifacts, which are human-made, ecofacts include organic materials like plant seeds or animal bones found in ancient deposits. These remains provide vital information about past environments, diets, and subsistence strategies, helping researchers reconstruct how human societies interacted with their diverse natural surroundings.

269. (C) Because they reflect the author's specific interpretations and potential biases.

Secondary sources require critical evaluation because they represent interpretations and syntheses of raw data rather than the evidence itself. These works naturally reflect the author's specific theoretical framework, personal biases, and the limitations of academic knowledge during that period. By approaching these sources with caution, researchers can distinguish between established facts and the subjective arguments of other scholars.

270. (D) Secondary sources are analyses and interpretations built upon primary sources.

The relationship between primary and secondary sources is hierarchical and interpretative. Primary sources provide the raw, empirical evidence discovered in the field, while secondary sources consist of the subsequent analysis and synthesis of that data. Essentially, secondary sources are constructed upon the foundation of primary evidence, offering arguments and broader historical contexts derived specifically from the study of original materials.

271. (C) Field investigation primarily generates new data, while case studies often intensively analyze existing data.

Field investigation and case studies differ primarily in their approach to data. Field investigations, such as surveys and excavations, are the principal methods for generating new primary data from the landscape. In contrast, case studies focus on an in-depth examination of a specific instance, often relying on the intensive re-analysis of existing primary materials and secondary scholarly reports.

272. (B) Systematically searches a landscape without major digging.

Archaeological survey is a non-intrusive method used to systematically identify and map sites across a landscape. Unlike excavation, it typically avoids major digging, focusing instead on surface observations to record site distributions and land-use patterns. This approach allows researchers to gather broad spatial data over large areas, providing essential context for understanding how ancient populations inhabited their environment.

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273. (D) It implies that the physical context of the site is permanently removed during investigation.

Excavation is termed a destructive process because the act of digging permanently alters and removes the physical context of archaeological remains. Once soil layers are disturbed and objects are lifted, the original site structure cannot be restored. This inherent destruction makes meticulous recording and scientific justification essential, as the process consumes the very historical resource that is being investigated.

274. (A) A case study.

When a researcher performs an intensive analysis of existing reports and artifacts from a specific location to understand its social structure, they are conducting a case study. This method focuses on a single instance or cultural phenomenon, utilizing gathered data to provide deep, contextualized understanding. It emphasizes focused analytical attention on one site rather than generating entirely new fieldwork.

275. (C) Information on settlement patterns over a large area.

Archaeological survey is particularly effective for gathering data on large-scale settlement patterns and site distributions across a landscape. By systematically recording surface features and artifacts over a wide region, researchers can understand how ancient societies utilized land and distributed their populations. This spatial information is vital for reconstructing regional history and identifying relationships between different sites and their environments.

276. (A) The significant impact of ICT on archaeological methodology.

One of the initial tasks in the processing phase involves the basic cleaning and conservation of newly excavated artifacts. This step is essential for stabilizing the items, preventing further deterioration after their removal from the ground. Furthermore, cleaning reveals critical diagnostic attributes, such as decoration or manufacturing marks, which are necessary for the subsequent stages of cataloging, classification, and analysis.

293. (D) Classification and typology.

Sorting pottery sherds according to specific physical characteristics like fabric, shape, and decoration is a clear example of classification and typology. This process involves grouping artifacts into meaningful categories based on shared attributes. By creating these structured sets, archaeologists can more easily compare data across different sites or time periods, facilitating a more rigorous analysis of past cultural trends.

294. (B) Organizing and synthesizing stratigraphic data.

The Harris Matrix is a specialized tool used by archaeologists to organize and synthesize stratigraphic data collected during excavations. It allows researchers to visualize the complex chronological relationships between different soil layers and features in a clear, sequential diagram. This tool is indispensable for reconstructing the relative timeline of a site, providing the necessary temporal framework for interpreting remains.

295. (C) Data processing creates the organized dataset required for analysis.

Data processing and data analysis are distinct but sequential phases of archaeological research. Processing acts as the preparatory stage that transforms raw field evidence into an organized and structured dataset. This meticulous preparation is essential because it provides the clean, categorized information required for the analysis phase, where researchers can finally identify patterns, perform quantitative tests, and interpret results.

296. (D) Research is incomplete and of little value until its findings are effectively communicated.

The central argument is that archaeological research remains incomplete until its results are systematically presented. Knowledge gained from fieldwork and analysis holds little inherent value if it is not shared with the scientific community and the public. Effective communication through a structured and transparent presentation ensures that the research makes a meaningful and lasting contribution to the discipline of archaeology.

297. (A) They help to communicate quantitative and spatial information more clearly than text alone.

Visual aids such as tables, graphs, and maps are crucial for the effective communication of archaeological data. These tools allow researchers to present complex quantitative information and spatial relationships more clearly than is possible through written text alone. By integrating high-quality visual evidence, a presentation provides a logical and transparent display of findings, helping the audience better understand research.

298. (B) Explaining what the data means in relation to the research hypothesis.

The interpretation phase involves explaining the significance of the processed data in the context of the original research goals. Researchers must demonstrate how their findings support, refute, or require modifications to the initial hypothesis. This step is critical because it moves the presentation beyond a mere description of objects toward a meaningful explanation of past human behaviors.

299. (B) Restating the original research question and hypothesis.

A systematic presentation of archaeological results should ideally begin by restating the project's original research question and hypothesis. This approach provides the necessary context for the audience, reminding them of the investigation's specific goals. By framing the findings within the initial problem-oriented research design, the researcher ensures that the subsequent data and interpretations flow logically.

300. (A) Discussing the implications of the results for the wider field.

The concluding step in presenting archaeological research involves situating the findings within a broader scholarly context. This includes discussing the implications of the results for the wider field of archaeology and the current understanding of the past. Additionally, the

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284. (A) Contribute to public education and appreciation of the past.

Archaeologists have an ethical duty to share their research findings with the general public in a timely and accessible manner. The goal of this dissemination is to foster public education and a deeper appreciation for shared human history. By communicating their results, researchers ensure that archaeological knowledge benefits society as a whole rather than remaining restricted to narrow academic circles.

285. (C) Failing to credit a collaborator's contribution in a publication.

A significant violation of professional ethics in archaeology is the failure to acknowledge the intellectual contributions of colleagues. Proper ethical conduct requires researchers to give due credit to all collaborators in their publications. Maintaining this standard of integrity is essential for fostering a collaborative and honest academic environment, where the work of every individual is respected and appropriately recognized.

286. (D) To acknowledge the intellectual contributions of others and avoid plagiarism.

The primary ethical motivation for systematic referencing is to formally acknowledge the intellectual work of other researchers. This practice is essential for maintaining academic integrity and avoiding plagiarism, which is the uncredited use of someone else's ideas or data. By citing sources, authors respect the efforts of their peers and clearly distinguish their own original contributions from others.

287. (C) It allows readers to trace and verify the sources used by the author.

An 'audit trail' in systematic referencing provides a transparent path for readers to follow. By including accurate citations, an author allows other scholars to easily locate the original source materials used in a study. This transparency is crucial for verifying the evidence presented and evaluating the logic of the researcher's interpretations, ensuring that all claims are backed by accessible data.

288. (B) By allowing for the verification of evidence and evaluation of interpretations.

Systematic referencing supports the scientific process by establishing verifiability, which is a core principle of objective research. It allows peers to evaluate the evidence and interpretations made within a publication. By providing clear links to original data and previous scholarship, referencing ensures that archaeological arguments are open to scrutiny, a necessary condition for building reliable knowledge about the past.

289. (D) Share the same underlying principle of systematic attribution.

Although various academic fields and journals utilize different referencing styles, such as Harvard, Chicago, or APA, they all share a common purpose. The underlying principle across all formats is the systematic attribution of information and ideas to their original sources. This consistency ensures that, regardless of the specific style, the goals of transparency, intellectual honesty, and scientific verifiability are met.

290. (A) Its scholarly value and credibility are fundamentally undermined.

A research paper that fails to include proper referencing suffers a significant loss of scholarly value and credibility. Without clear citations, the work cannot be verified, and the origins of its ideas remain obscure. This deficiency undermines the integrity of the research, making it difficult for the academic community to trust the findings or the intellectual honesty of the author.

291. (C) To transform raw field data into a structured, analyzable format.

The data processing phase serves as a vital intermediary step in the archaeological research cycle. Its primary goal is to convert raw, disorganized field data—such as artifacts and excavation notes—into a structured format suitable for analysis. Without this systematic organization, the mass of evidence collected during fieldwork remains unusable for testing hypotheses or identifying meaningful patterns about the past.

292. (A) Cleaning and conserving them for stabilization.

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The primary theme centers on the transformative role that Information and Communication Technologies play in modern archaeological methodology. From fieldwork documentation to data analysis and dissemination, these digital tools have enhanced nearly every stage of the research process. The integration of ICT increases precision, efficiency, and accuracy, allowing archaeologists to manage complex datasets and visualize ancient sites in innovative ways.

277. (D) To manage and analyze spatial data like site distributions.

Geographic Information Systems are essential tools used in archaeology for the management and analysis of spatial data. They enable researchers to map site distributions with high precision, model ancient landscapes, and analyze complex settlement patterns. By integrating diverse geographical information, GIS helps archaeologists visualize spatial relationships that are crucial for understanding how past societies organized themselves within their territories.

278. (B) Create detailed virtual models of artifacts and sites.

The application of 3D scanning technologies, including photogrammetry and laser scanning, allows for the creation of highly accurate virtual models. These digital replicas preserve the fine details of artifacts, architectural features, and entire archaeological sites. Such models are invaluable for detailed analysis, virtual preservation, and making cultural heritage more accessible for study by researchers and the public worldwide.

279. (C) By facilitating the management of large datasets in databases.

In the data processing stage, ICT provides the infrastructure necessary to manage the vast and diverse datasets generated during fieldwork. Specialized archaeological databases enable researchers to efficiently catalog, query, and link different types of information. This technological assistance ensures that massive amounts of raw data are organized systematically, making subsequent quantitative analysis and long-term data storage much more manageable.

280. (D) It allows for more sophisticated and precise analysis of data.

A major implied benefit of incorporating ICT into archaeology is the ability to perform more sophisticated and precise data analysis. Tools like statistical software allow researchers to identify complex patterns within artifact assemblages or survey data that might otherwise remain hidden. This digital revolution enhances the depth of archaeological inquiry, leading to more accurate and objective interpretations of past human behaviors.

281. (A) The responsibility towards the archaeological record itself.

The primary ethical responsibility of an archaeologist is the protection and stewardship of the archaeological record. Because this record is a finite and non-renewable resource, researchers must prioritize its preservation. This duty mandates the use of rigorous scientific methods and meticulous documentation during investigation, ensuring that the evidence remains available for future study even after a site's destruction.

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282. (B) Once a site is excavated, its original context is destroyed forever.

Describing the archaeological record as finite and non-renewable emphasizes that the physical context of a site is permanently lost once it is excavated. Unlike resources that can be replenished, an archaeological site cannot be recreated in its original state. Therefore, any investigation inherently reduces the remaining pool of primary evidence, placing a heavy burden of responsibility on the modern researcher.

283. (B) Engaging in respectful consultation and collaboration.

Ethical obligations toward descendant communities require archaeologists to move beyond purely extractive research models toward more inclusive practices. This involves engaging in respectful consultation and collaboration with groups whose ancestors created the heritage under study. Researchers must show sensitivity to local values and beliefs, ensuring that the investigation respects the cultural significance the past holds for these living communities.

researcher should suggest potential avenues for future study, ensuring that their work contributes to the ongoing growth of historical knowledge.

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been collected and analyzed. The methodology establishes the framework for discovery, not the final result.

260. (A) Making research more efficient and goal-oriented.

Implementing a robust research design significantly enhances the efficiency and structure of archaeological investigations. By requiring researchers to think through and justify every procedural step in advance, it ensures that all efforts remain goal-oriented. This proactive planning maximizes the potential for meaningful scientific results while simultaneously reducing the destructive impact that unplanned fieldwork can have on sites.

261. (D) To act as a testable proposition that guides data collection.

A hypothesis serves as a testable proposition that bridges the gap between a research question and the actual collection of field data. Rather than being a simple guess, it is a grounded explanation that directs the investigation. It specifies exactly what types of evidence are necessary to evaluate a claim, transforming archaeological work into a focused scientific inquiry.

262. (B) Falsifiable.

For any hypothesis to be considered scientifically valid, it must possess the characteristic of falsifiability. This means it must be possible to identify evidence that could potentially disprove the statement. This core principle distinguishes rigorous scientific investigation from speculative guesswork, ensuring that archaeological interpretations are subject to empirical testing and can be effectively challenged or refuted by new discoveries.

263. (C) It directs the archaeologist to look for specific types of evidence.

A specific hypothesis regarding subsistence changes guides the researcher to seek particular categories of empirical data. Instead of collecting random objects, the archaeologist focuses on finding palaeobotanical remains, specific tool assemblages, or faunal evidence that directly addresses the claim. This targeted approach ensures that fieldwork is systematic and results in data that can meaningfully test the hypothesis.

264. (D) It must be possible to find evidence that could contradict the hypothesis.

The principle of falsifiability dictates that a scientific statement must be structured so that it can be contradicted by potential evidence. In archaeology, this requires that hypotheses be framed such that certain material findings would prove them incorrect. This ability to be tested and potentially refuted is what makes an inquiry scientific rather than purely speculative or imaginative.

265. (A) It transforms fieldwork into a focused scientific investigation.

Utilizing a hypothesis shifts the nature of archaeological fieldwork from a general search for artifacts to a focused scientific investigation. By providing a clear framework for analysis, it dictates which data types are relevant to the research goals. This structured approach moves the discipline away from unsystematic search methods and toward a rigorous process for answering specific questions.

266. (B) It is firsthand evidence recovered directly through fieldwork.

In archaeology, primary sources are defined as the raw, firsthand evidence originating directly from the past. These materials are discovered and documented during fieldwork, serving as the empirical foundation for all historical interpretations. They include physical remains like artifacts and ecofacts, as well as the immediate records of their discovery, such as field notes and original stratigraphic drawings.

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267. (B) A set of stratigraphic drawings from an excavation trench

Stratigraphic drawings are considered primary sources because they are original, firsthand records created during the excavation process. They document the direct physical context of archaeological finds in their original layers. Unlike interpretive summaries or synthesized documentaries, these drawings represent the raw, empirical evidence that archaeologists use to build their subsequent analyses and focused historical arguments about the past.

268. (A) Natural objects that have cultural relevance.